

## President's nominee wins after snub

## Double blow to the authority of Gorbachev

FROM MARY DEJESVY AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev suffered a double blow to his declining authority yesterday when his nominee for Soviet vice-president was only elected on a second ballot and the Russian Federation announced that it would withhold much of its contribution to the central budget.

The initial rejection of his hand-picked and only candidate for the vice-presidency further dented Mr Gorbachev's already battered prestige. When Gennadi Yanayev succeeded at the second attempt, he met a less than enthusiastic reception from some members of the Congress of People's Deputies.

The loss of Russian funds threatens the country with serious financial problems after the federation parliament voted to withhold more than 80 per cent of its planned contribution to next year's central budget. The decision, taken by the Russian parliament late on Wednesday, constitutes an open challenge to central economic control and was at once

condemned by Mr Gorbachev as threatening the "disintegration not only of the economy, but of the country as a whole."

The Russian move leaves the Soviet budget for next year, which was to have been finalised next week, without the bulk of its planned revenue. According to Mr Gorbachev, central programmes, including social spending and state subsidies, will have to be cut by 110 billion roubles (£110 billion). This year, Russia contributed 142 billion roubles to the centre, but it has said it will give only 23.4 billion next year.

The Soviet central budget was always going to experience difficulties next year, with the most optimistic estimate forecasting an internal deficit of 59 billion roubles, roughly the same as that predicted for this year. But this required full contributions from the republics, a sharp reduction in capital investment, lower defence spending, and price increases. So far there has been intense public resistance to price rises and the military is believed to have lobbied successfully to have planned cuts reduced.

What remained unclear last night was Russia's real power to withhold its contributions, given the still highly centralized system and the degree to which the manoeuvre was a bargaining ploy.

In the vice-presidential ballot, Mr Yanayev, aged 53, was 31 votes short of the simple majority needed, taking only 1,089 of 2,239 on the first count. Many delegates to the congress declined to vote at all. Despite the initial result, Mr Gorbachev stood by his choice and nominated Mr Yanayev for a second ballot, which he won comfortably, with 1,237 votes in his favour. His confirmation was greeted by thin applause from delegates tired and bored after ten days' often ineffectual debate.

Mr Yanayev, a senior party official and formerly head of the official trade union movement, was an unexpected choice for vice-president and many congress delegates, regardless of their political sympathies, complained that they did not know him. Reformists considered him too hardline, while many others said he lacked the necessary stature.

After the first ballot, there

was hysterical condemnation from the floor of more than 100 delegates who had registered to vote but did not. A delegate who tried to dismiss the re-run as a charade and travesty of democracy found his microphone turned off.

Speakers who appeared to have been subject to a degree of arm-twisting to support Mr Yanayev's second attempt brought a wide variety of arguments to explain their choice. Some said Mr Gorbachev had frequently been accused of indecision, and by standing by his choice, he was proving his consistency and single-mindedness. Others said that Mr Yanayev's reputation as a firm traditionalist would complement Mr Gorbachev's qualities and compensate for his defects.

One speaker said that Mr Gorbachev was taking a leaf out of Boris Yeltsin's book by choosing an unknown for his team. But others implied obliquely that Mr Yanayev was in the same mould and would have been the natural choice of the ailing prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, who had a heart attack on Wednesday. The final speaker foretold catastrophe if delegates failed to back his choice for vice-president.

Mr Gorbachev supported his decision to renominate Mr Yanayev by saying that only 25 per cent of delegates had voted against him and that the post of vice-president had to be decided as a matter of urgency. "I want someone I can trust implicitly," he told sceptical delegates.

Russian squeeze, page 8  
Food fiasco, page 8

At least he hasn't been called up to the GULF...



## Stormy meeting led to Ryzhkov heart attack

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

NIKOLAI Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister, suffered his cardiac arrest after "excessive attacks that were exaggerated, persistent and deliberate," according to his wife Ludmila. Yesterday, President Gorbachev said he was in a serious but stable condition.

Mrs Ryzhkov described her husband's illness in an unusually personal interview, published at length by Tass, which had given strikingly sympathetic coverage to the prime minister's views when he was still at work.

She confirmed speculation that his cardiac seizure occurred hours after Tuesday night's stormy meeting be-

tween the Russian Federation and the central authorities, which threatened to paralyse the economy.

"At three o'clock, he woke me up and asked me to give him something for his heart. His forehead was covered in cold perspiration... I gave him Valoid and called the doctor, who immediately sent for the ambulance," Mrs Ryzhkov said.

She added that her husband was no worse yesterday than on Wednesday, despite reports on Moscow Radio that his condition had deteriorated. "The pain has subsided, but some time will be needed to stabilise his emotional state."



Storm tossed: a ferry struggling across the Firth of Clyde from Gourock to the Kilcregan Peninsula yesterday

## Another five days of gales forecast

BY DAVID YOUNG AND KERRY GILL

BRITAIN is bracing itself for a fourth day of gales after rain, snow and winds gusting up to 80mph has blocked and flooded roads and left thousands of people without electricity.

Yesterday saw the worst weather so far of the present stormy conditions, with lower temperatures and continuing high winds. Blizzards swept south from Scotland and Northern Ireland into northern England and North Wales.

Another five days of gales have been predicted. The London Weather Centre said that winds would again reach gale force today, and that Scotland, Northern Ireland, the North and the West would bear the brunt of the storms. Snow would fall on high ground and there would be heavy seas. The rest of the country faced torrential sleet and rain, with high winds unlikely to disappear before next Monday or Tuesday.

Yesterday's gales brought down power lines in the Midlands, cutting off more than 3,000 homes.

High winds and snow caused disruption throughout Scotland. A man died when his car collided with a lorry in the Borders. Police said that the accident was caused by bad weather.

Power lines were brought down by winds gusting at more than 70mph, trees were toppled and many roads were

Continued on page 18, col 7

Weather line threat, page 3

## CBI warning of more job losses

BY TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

A PICTURE of deepening recession and rising unemployment was painted yesterday in separate reports from the Confederation of British Industry and Manpower, the country's biggest employment services company.

The reports come as union leaders in key industries are preparing wage demands above the rate of inflation to maintain the living standards of their members.

The CBI said that the slowdown in earnings growth must continue in order to prevent a rising tide of redundancies becoming a flood. John Banham, director general of the CBI, told unions that to use the retail price index as a target in pay negotiations would put jobs at risk. "If such recklessness prevails there will be needless job losses. Pay must reflect performance."

In its report, Manpower said that employment prospects are at their worst since the beginning of 1983. Only one in ten employers are

expecting to recruit in the first three months of next year, half the number for the same period this year. At the same time, more than one firm in ten is expecting to announce job losses.

Manpower, which interviewed 1,500 companies, said that in industry, the worst hit has been the public sector, with 15 per cent of firms expecting a decline in employment prospects. In service industries, 12 per cent of employers are expecting to dismiss staff compared with eight per cent who plan to recruit them.

The Manpower report says that manufacturing has the best employment prospects, with expected recruitment above the national average at 14 per cent. Prospects for the private building industry are, however, described as grim with 24 per cent of businesses planning job losses.

In spite of these warnings, leaders of powerful groups of employees, including manual workers in the electricity industry, have tabled double figure pay demands.

Meanwhile, John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, the country's second largest union, said yesterday that the TUC should shift towards providing services to affiliates and away from being a lobbyist in the corridors of power.

Mr Edmonds said that the TUC's role was being eroded because of the emergence of "super unions" and he suggested that it should concentrate on becoming a research, education and information service.

Continued on page 18, col 1

Volunteers report, page 2

Gulf stalemate, page 9

Leading article, page 11

Letters, page 11

## Rushdie says he is a Muslim

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SALMAN RUSHDIE, the author of *The Satanic Verses* still living in hiding under religious sentence of death for his book's alleged blasphemies, writes in *The Times* today: "I am certainly not a good Muslim. But I am able now to say that I am a Muslim."

The author describes his Christmas Eve meeting with six Muslim scholars, which led to his decision to affirm the basic tenets of Islam, as "a victory for compassion, understanding and tolerance". He says that it has started a process of reconciliation, and writes: "I believe that in the weeks and months to come the language of enmity will be replaced by the language of love." But he insists it would be wrong to withdraw his book from publication entirely, as his extremist Muslim critics have demanded and as one of the six scholars who attended the meeting again urged yesterday.

Shaikh Gamal Manna's Ali Solaiman of the London Central Mosque called for the withdrawal of "that offensive novel from circulation".

Rushdie writes, page 10

## TODAY

## Top dogs and underdogs

The year of the fallen prominent and the risen obscure, reviewed by George Hill and Sara Driver  
PAGES 14, 15

## Getting their skates on

The complete guide to keeping the children occupied during the school holiday, from skating to zoos via the best museums  
PAGE 16

## SATURDAY

## Ah summer, ah bliss



Jan Morris, jaded by the Eighties, with a personal reflection on the warming and reinvigorating summer of 1990, a window through which hope was briefly glimpsed  
SATURDAY REVIEW

## The quiz as an art form

So, what is the record price for a civilian hat? Take on our art quiz of the year  
WEEKEND LIVING

## No leaves on the line?

Paul Knappe is in charge of British Rail's tracks, with the aim of protecting animals and plants and thereby cheering up passengers  
WEEKEND LIVING

See the old year out and the new one in with *The Times*, which publishes normally on New Year's eve and New Year's day. Place an order to be sure of your copy

INSIDE  
Labour vow on rights

Labour plans to unveil a charter of rights next month committing it to repeal the Official Secrets Act and to legislate for freedom of information early in a first Labour parliament.

The legislation would make information freely available unless disclosure infringes personal privacy or national security.  
Page 18

## Threat to zoo

After a record operating deficit last year of £4.9 million, London Zoo, founded in 1827 as The Ark in the Park, may not survive without government help. But government sources indicate that more money is unlikely to be forthcoming.  
Page 5

## MP indicted

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party was stained by scandal again when Toshiyuki Inamura, a former cabinet minister and a sitting MP, was indicted for evading 1.7 billion yen (£6.8 million) in taxes.  
Page 7

## Nissan split

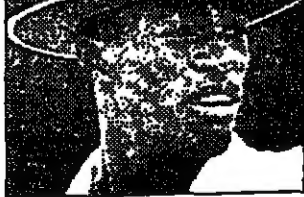
Nissan Motor Company of Japan is to cut links with Nissan UK, its sole distributor in Britain.  
Page 19

## Brealey quits

Reg Brealey, Sheffield United chairman, resigned after agreeing to sell his majority shareholding to fellow director Paul Woolhouse.  
Page 28

## Lewis injury

Chris Lewis is returning home from the second Test in Melbourne, Australia. He has a stress fracture of the back. England were all out for 352 in yesterday's play.  
Page 28



## INDEX

Births, marriages, deaths... 13  
Business... 19-22  
Court & social... 12  
Crosswords... 13, 18  
Leading articles... 11  
Letters... 11  
Obituaries... 12  
Sport... 24-28  
TV & radio... 17  
Weather... 18

## Neanderthal man may reveal his bloodline

BY NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE secrets of mankind's genetic lineage could be unlocked within five years, researchers are claiming. Scientists armed with new gene-screening techniques are studying blood-splattered tools which they believe carry the genetic code of Neanderthal man, a brutish, human-like creature that lived 35,000 to 100,000 years ago. That lived 35,000 to 100,000 years ago. Experts believe that these and other blood samples taken from natural history collections and from tools at sites in Australia, north America and the Middle East, may allow them to plot evolutionary maps, similar to the way that geneologists chart family trees.

Scientists may also be able to resolve some of life's most fundamental questions, including how

genetic diseases emerged and if Neanderthal man was the end of an evolutionary line or the forerunner of modern intelligent humans.

Matching genetic fragments from primitive man with those from ancient apes could help to pinpoint where in evolution animals crossed over to becoming humans and provide insights into human migration over thousands of years. The dating of the arrival of diseases such as syphilis and influenza may also become possible.

The work is being pioneered by a team from the Australian National University in Canberra, which is studying blood traces from tools discovered at various sites in the Middle East. Thomas Loy, the team leader and formerly of the Royal British Columbia museum in

Vancouver, identified the potential of studying ancient remains for blood samples while analysing the knives of the Pacific Northwest Indians who lived 1,000 years ago. Mr Loy believes that the research could ultimately reveal mankind's entire history.

The research is being aided by the discovery that blood can survive complete with its genetic code for millennia, as well as improved techniques for examining samples. Once the Australian scientists are convinced that the blood samples are human, they are subjected to DNA fingerprinting analysis to discover their genetic make-up.

Researchers at Sheffield university are also using powerful enzymes and have detected blood proteins in Saxon bones believed to be 1,000 years old. They say the technique offers a cheap,

easy and highly sensitive way of detecting even small amounts of blood protein in crushed, ancient, bone samples.

The work is producing spin-offs for zoologists and researchers studying ancient cultural history. Dr Loy's team has been studying samples from cave paintings in the Northwestern Territory and Judds Cavern in Tasmania dating from between 10,000 and 20,000 years ago. These are not only helping to show that blood pigments were used in art but also allow dating of the paintings.

Other blood samples are believed to be from a species of cow which became extinct in Europe in the 17th century. Others from sheep should allow zoologists studying ancient animals to distinguish them more easily from goats' remains.



## One compelling reason for a diversified energy programme

The Middle East holds two-thirds of known oil reserves. Any instability in the region puts the world's oil markets on edge. And when oil prices start to rise, those of gas generally follow suit.

By contrast the cost of nuclear power is unlikely to be affected by events in the Gulf. Uranium for Britain's nuclear power stations is mined in countries such as Canada, Australia and the USA. And the quantities of uranium needed are so small it is easy to keep supplies in reserve.

It would be unwise to assume that the present oil crisis will be the last. It's reassuring, therefore, to know that nuclear power can help stabilise Britain's energy costs.

If you would like to know more about nuclear energy, please send for our information pack.

Tel: 081-205 7090 for a free information pack.

Or write to: The British Nuclear Forum, 22 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.

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# Holiday price war a threat to small travel agencies

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

LEADING travel agency chains were offering big reductions on summer holidays yesterday in a move that could mean the closure of many smaller independent agencies.

Companies such as Lunn Poly, Pickfords, Thomas Cook, and A.T. Mays are financing big discounts on next year's package deals with the commissions that they receive from tour operators and holiday insurance firms. Their aim is to maintain their share of a market hit by the recession and the continued decline in the number of families taking package holidays.

Travel agents usually receive about 10 per cent commission for every holiday they sell from the major tour operators, plus 15 per cent for every holiday insurance package they sell. With profit levels trimmed to the bare minimum the only "fat" left to cut was the commission, which will now be passed on to holidaymakers.

One of the effects, however, is to increase pressure on the small travel agent, who cannot afford to give up what is the main source of his income.

Industry experts believe that in 1991 hundreds will be forced to close by the price war that has broken out among the top six chains.

Although many of the protagonists in the battle were maintaining yesterday that the discounts were bringing in much needed additional custom, privately all admitted that business had been at best "patchy" and that everyone was suffering from the recession. Some reported that isolated travel agents in the South-East were doing well, while others said that the best business was in the Midlands. All agreed that Northerners were slow to take advantage of the holiday reductions.

Last year, 282 independent travel agents went out of business because of the price war among the big chains, and this is expected to be overtaken this year as rent reviews for freehold shops push up costs and the business rate begins to bite more severely. For holidaymakers, however, the price cuts are welcome news bringing many bargains.

Those companies offering holidays in Britain, are hopeful that 1991 will be a good

year because of a succession of hot summers that have convinced many thousands to stay at home. Almost three-quarters of holidaymakers believe that the British weather is not a consideration in their holiday choice, and 82 per cent expect better weather next year. The growing number of indoor swimming pools, luxury hotels and apartments, and good sports facilities mean that more than three-quarters would not be put off by bad weather, according to Hoesason.

Holidaymakers who still prefer to spend their summer break abroad were warned about some of the pitfalls yesterday in a new guide by the travel company Hogg Robinson. More than 1,650 hotels in 250 resorts were checked for the latest *Recommended Resort and Hotel Guide*. They included a hotel just 300 yards from an airport, and another described as fine "if you enjoy a holiday on the M25".

In spite of improvements towards higher quality with 98 per cent of hotels being recommended, 2 per cent appeared on the company's blacklist.



If the mask fits: Two of hundreds of Territorial Army volunteers at Aldershot yesterday getting a foretaste of what lies ahead in the Gulf

## TA volunteers report for duty

By LIN JENKINS AND KERRY GILL

SOME were former regulars. Many had been members of the Territorial Army for years. Yesterday, they gathered at two TA centres, Keogh Barracks, near Aldershot, and in Glasgow, to offer to serve in the Gulf. Surgeons, physicians, anaesthetists, nurses,

medical technicians and administrative officers volunteered to leave the cold of a British winter for the heat and uncertainty of a posting in the Middle East.

Many were apprehensive. Most were leaving husbands, wives and children. Spirits were nevertheless high in spite of the prospect of war break-

ing out within days of their arrival in the desert. Cecilia Grossmith, aged 31, who left her post as major in the Royal Army Medical Corps 18 months ago after marrying, said she volunteered at Aldershot because the work was so important.

Colleagues at the practice at Ashford, Surrey, where she

has been working as a GP, were at first horrified by her decision, but have employed a locum during her absence. "It is hard on my patients, and most of them do not know that it has happened so quickly," Dr Grossmith said. "I'm not frightened about going to the Gulf, but I am worried about being too hot."

Alan Davies, aged 36, who is returning to the army as a theatre sister, said that he decided to leave his wife, three-year-old son and 18 months old twins, simply because he was needed. He was first asked to volunteer in October, but feels this time the financial position and security of his job in a private hospital at Brentwood, Essex, is better.

"After five years in the Territorial Army, I am hoping that if people like me volunteer they will not have to conscript anybody. It will be rather sad for the medical corps if they do. But we have no national service so there are not that many people trained for the job," he said.

Life has turned a full circle for Mavis Bordenkircher, a TA major, who yesterday joined more than 250 volunteers of the 205 (Scottish) General Hospital in Glasgow for mobilisation before flying to the Gulf. Major Bordenkircher, a ward sister at an Edinburgh hospital, said: "Naturally I feel a little trepidation but I have been a volunteer since I stepped into uniform in 1977."

The volunteer officers crowded into the TA centre to undergo the first stage in mobilisation before helping to set up a 600-bed field hospital in Saudi Arabia. After a security check they were given medical tests before speaking to welfare staff.

Captain Mike Everitt, RAMC unit mobilisation officer, said that some might have had family problems which would make them exempt from immediate service. Once through the administrative process they were subject to military law. The next step was to receive travel expenses, and the first day's pay which included a call-out gratuity of £210.

Scores of young nurses and doctors sat in rows patiently waiting for their combat suits, six sets of nuclear, biological and chemical protection suits each, and their helmets from the quartermaster's store.

Private Sandra Burns, aged 26, and her husband Patrick, aged 33, a sergeant, joined the TA nine years ago. They will leave their daughters aged three and ten behind in the care of Mrs Burns's mother. "The girls are well used to us going away because we have been on exercises ever since we joined the TA and they know we go away from home together quite a lot," Mrs Burns said.

Colonel Glynn Jones, a consultant physician in Kilmarlock, is commanding officer of 205 (Scottish) General Hospital. He said that there would be no drain on health board resources because of mobilisation. The field hospital would have 16 surgical teams made up equally of men and women.

## UK fuel supplies 'wasted'

Imports of fuel will exceed Britain's exports of coal and oil for the second successive year, according to figures produced yesterday by the Labour party.

Accusing the government of squandering resources, Labour urged ministers to switch their priority from energy sales to energy conservation. Frank Dobson, the shadow energy spokesman, said that the value of Britain's fuel trade has declined from a surplus of £6,132 million in 1985 to a projected surplus of £310 million in 1990.

## Heart hopes

Transplant specialists are hopeful that a new heart will be found for Christy Strachan, a ten-day-old baby of New Barnet, north London, within the next few days. After a national appeal, there has been a rise in the number of donor organs available through the UK Transplant Co-ordinating Centre in Bristol. He has hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a congenital and incurable defect.

## Teaching threat

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers yesterday threatened to oppose government plans for staff appraisal unless they are accompanied by big changes in pay and conditions. It has asked the interim advisory committee, which makes recommendations on teachers' pay and conditions, to oppose the plans unless such changes are introduced.

## Plea for disabled

The TUC today calls on the government to introduce new laws to protect the disabled from discrimination and says they should be protected by the creation of a minister to review new and existing legislation. The TUC says that less than one in four employers meets the quota scheme, under which 3 per cent of every workforce of more than 20 employees must consist of disabled people.

## Cars are recalled

Toyota yesterday recalled more than 17,000 cars after engineers discovered a fault which could reduce handbrake performance. All Carina models built between December, 1987, and February, 1990, will be modified free of charge. A spokesman said: "The floor around the handbrake mounting could deform and in the worst possible case handbrake performance reduced."

## Drugs find

A drug smuggler is believed to have drowned in heavy seas after £100,000-worth of cannabis was found in a hold-all on a beach between Thorpe Ness and Sizewell, Suffolk. It was discovered near a rubber dingy and an outboard motor. Police believe it might have been part of an operation to land drugs.

## Thatcher tops radio's Woman of Year poll

By RICHARD FORD and PETER VICTOR

MARGARET Thatcher was yesterday voted Woman of the Year for the fifth consecutive year in BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme poll.

Even this victory, however, was haunted by the man who led the challenge to her leadership of the Tory party, for rumour had it that Michael Heseltine will this morning be named Man of the Year in *Today's* annual contest.

Listeners made Mary Robinson, the Irish Republic's first woman president, run-

ner-up to Mrs Thatcher, with Tracy Edwards, the yachtswoman, third. Jill Morrell, campaigner for the release of the hostage John McCarthy, was fourth, with Kate Adie, the BBC reporter, fifth.

**Winning The Times crossword**  
Across: 1. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 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## Cardiff draws itself a role in expanding cartoon industry

Children throughout the world are enjoying cartoons made in Cardiff that are providing Wales with a new cottage industry, Melinda Wittstock reports

AS MINES and steel mills in Wales were closing in the Eighties, animators in Cardiff were creating cartoon characters that have won the principal prize new fame. *Fireman Sam*, *SuperTed* and *Wiliwili Cwac Cwac*, eight years ago just a twinkle in the eyes of their creators, have become children's favourites everywhere. The high-quality cartoons, made in Wales before being dubbed into almost every language and snatched up by the Disney Channel, are now avidly watched all over the world on television and video cassette. Thanks to S4C, the Welsh commercial television channel created in 1982 as a sister to Channel 4, Cardiff is home to a thriving cottage industry, and Britain has become a significant player in the wonderful world that had belonged almost exclusively to Walt Disney and Warner Brothers. Five animation houses and 45 independent production companies have sprung up with the financial backing of S4C, luring many talented freelance artists away from London and a precarious living from cartoon commercials. Cardiff art schools have been raided for talented students. Now, as children read, or play with, spin-offs from *SuperTed* and *Wiliwili Cwac Cwac*, international co-production export money flows back to finance still more ambitious projects. Only two full-length animation features were made in Britain throughout the 1970s, but four are being made this year in Wales alone. S4C, which has grossed £1 million on *Fireman Sam*, the BBC's top-selling video last year, has £3.5 million riding on new projects and international co-productions. These will take Welsh animation far beyond children's cartoons, according to Christopher Grace, S4C's head of animation. A £2.5 million animated dram-



Moving pictures: a Cardiff animator viewing a 'cell' from the cartoon *Body Beautiful*

atisation of six Shakespeare plays, produced by two Welsh animators and Moscow's Soyuzmultfilm studio for release in 1992, breaks all cartoon clichés. A riveting, moody 60-second 'animation' of the opening witches scene of *Macbeth*, costing £30,000 to produce, had enough American and German buyers queuing at S4C's door for the channel to commission animated versions of *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest* and *Hamlet*. Some of the half-hour Shakespeare films will be painted on glass to give a fluid, ethereal look that cannot be achieved by cell-animation techniques. Others will use models. Dave Edwards, the renowned

animator who cut his teeth on *Yellow Submarine* and recently turned down a takeover offer from Disney for his Siriol Animations team in Cardiff, is not stopping with Shakespeare. Together with S4C and the American MCA, he is producing the first full-length animated feature commissioned by a Hollywood studio from outside America: *The Little Engine That Could*. Other Hollywood studios are lined up for co-production deals for two of his other projects, *Hot Dog*, a cartoon series about a canine car, and *The Radio Adventures of J.P. Jones*, in which a boy's imagination takes him into a strange world of adventure as he listens to a detective story on the radio. Robin Lyons, of Cardiff's Siriol Productions, is busy on a production by S4C and Hungary's Pannonia Studios of *The Princess and the Goblin*, a full-length fairy tale with the voices of Rik Mayall and Claire Bloom. S4C's ambitions to produce high-class adult animation will soon be realised with a version by Mr Lyons of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*. Using the Richard Burton soundtrack of the

play, recorded by the BBC in 1954, it will be a moody and imaginative £750,000 full-length feature 'pitched entirely at adults', says Mr Lyons. Channel 4's interest in adult animation has provided a showcase for the talents of both Joanna Hirst and Candy Guard, two feminist animators who have each won awards for their short, satirical pieces. In Miss Hirst's character Beryl, a disgruntled working-class housewife, features in *Girls' Night Out* and in *Body Beautiful* and is likely to appear in a series in which she goes to the Costa del Sol and to the Bronx. Cardiff animators, now involved in £2.5 million worth of productions in the next two to three years, have become so successful that commissions are coming in faster than they can do them. 'We have a serious skills shortage,' Mr Edwards says. Geraint Stanley-Jones, chief executive of S4C, wants to combine the older Welsh musical tradition with its newer one. 'No one has yet been able to translate music to the TV screen creatively or successfully. We are going to interpret music visually,' he said.

## Five children die in caravan explosion and tragedy at canal

By DAVID YOUNG

FIVE young children died yesterday in two accidents, three from one family after falling into a canal and two others in a blazing caravan as their father tried to rescue them.

The three children, two girls aged six and eight and a baby boy aged seven months, fell into Southcote lock at Burghfield, near Reading, Berkshire.

The mother, who was taken to hospital suffering from shock, told a woman police officer that she had been walking along the tow path of the Kennet and Avon canal with the baby in her arms.

Her two older children were walking ahead when both lost their footing and slipped into the water. The mother tried to grab them but failed and also lost her grip of the baby, which fell into the water.

Police said that the woman, in a desperate attempt to save them all, went into the water herself but scrambled back on to the bank and ran to a fisherman to raise the alarm.

Police said the lock was more

than 400 yards from the nearest road or house. The family lived in Tilehurst, Reading.

Ambulancemen comforted the mother and gave her sedatives before taking her to the Royal Berkshire hospital, Reading, where doctors gave her further medication.

Police managed to trace the father of the children - who was fishing on another waterway in the Reading area. They took him to the hospital and detectives were waiting with him to question the wife.

The fisherman pulled the body of the six-year-old girl from the lock and police and ambulancemen found the body of the baby boy soon after.

Police divers recovered the body of the eight-year-old girl after water authority workers were called in to partly drain the 15ft deep lock.

The two children who died in the caravan fire were named as Cheryl Cannon, aged three, and her two-year-old sister Nicki. They were still in their beds when

firemen found them. Alan Cannon, aged 24, had looked on as the family's mobile home burst into flames, knowing his daughters were trapped inside.

He immediately smashed down the door but was beaten back by thick smoke and passed out. Mr Cannon and his wife Tracy, aged 21, who is eight months pregnant, had left the caravan for a few minutes just after midnight to brew a cup of tea in a nearby office.

They had been living on the Chequers Lane industrial estate in Dagenham, Essex, since October while Mr Cannon worked as a security guard for a haulage firm on the site.

The couple had to use the office to make meals because the caravan was furnished only with beds and a gas heater. They ran outside when an explosion, possibly caused by the heater, ripped the mobile home apart.

Mr Cannon was taken to Oldchurch hospital, Romford, suffering from smoke inhalation with his wife who was in shock. They are expected to be detained for at least two days.

The site owner Bill Weekes, aged 43, of Dagenham, said: 'Alan and Tracy were making a cup of tea because there were no facilities in the caravan. They are a lovely couple, devoted to their children. They adored them. There is no way they would ever have left them in any danger.'

Firemen said the cause of the fire was still not known but it was not being treated as suspicious. A father and son were killed and a third person seriously injured yesterday in a road accident involving two cars and a lorry on the A51 at Stamford Bridge near Chester.

Police in Cheshire said that the identities of the casualties would not be released until today.



Firemen searching for one of the bodies at Southcote lock



Steven McGuinness, aged five, who has undergone a bone marrow transplant, being airlifted yesterday from Inverness to Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Sick Children after severe weather forced cancellation of the trip by ambulance (Kerry Gill writes). The Sea

King helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth had to be diverted to Forres, Grampian, during the trip to take a man suffering from a heart attack to hospital in Aberdeen. The helicopter then took advantage of a 'weather window' to cross from the east coast to

Glasgow. Although the flight took three-and-a-half hours, Steven's 170-mile journey by road would have taken much longer, with the added risk of becoming stuck in snow. At one stage they had to fly at 200 ft because of poor visibility.

## Shoppers thin on ground as recession hits winter sales

By DAVID YOUNG

HIGH street traders continued to feel the chill wind of the economic recession yesterday as they opened their doors for the winter sales to find few people queuing.

Department stores throughout the country were crowded but in London, where bargain-hunters traditionally wait for days to make sure of their special buy, only the homeless spent the night on the pavements.

In Oxford Street, Selfridges opened its door to a queue of only 200 people in spite of hiring a jazz band to woo the bargain-hunters. A spokesman for the store said,

however, that it was hoped that 100,000 shoppers would have passed through its doors by the end of the day.

Debenhams also had few bargain-hunters waiting when doors opened at 9am but, later in the day, said that menswear and household goods were in particular demand. Liberty, in Regent Street, said that takings were slightly up on last year. Sarah Wells, a student, bought a silk wedding dress for £150 - £280 less than the original price. At stores such as Jaeger and Aquascutum there were no big queues when the doors opened, although business was brisker later.

Business outside London was better and the retail industry is hoping that the January sales will help to compensate for its worst Christmas for ten years. Early indications are that bad weather and the recession are keeping most

shoppers at home for a few more days, leaving the bargains in London to the tourists.

A spokesman for the Marble Arch Traders' Association said: 'We all had a bad Christmas. Shoppers have been very clever this year and waited for the sales. They are also moving away from the big stores to the smaller, quality traders' hit hard by the recession and forced to make huge cuts. American, French and Scandinavian tourists in particular are lapping up goods in the higher price range.'

There are fewer signs of concern about the recession in the Midlands, where traders are hoping for near-record profits. In Birmingham city centre, car parks were full by mid-morning.

At the Merry Hill centre at Dudley, West Midlands, one of Britain's biggest shopping precincts, a queue of more than 600 shoppers formed outside Debenhams before the doors opened. There were also early morning queues outside stores in Reading, Berkshire.

In Hull hundreds of people had to cancel a trip to the sales after 300 gypsies set up camp at the main bus terminal and bus managers had to cancel a special 'park and ride' service for shoppers to the city centre. Europe's biggest shopping mall, the MetroCentre at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was crowded with shoppers. A spokesman said that sales might have been helped by bad weather in the region.

Appalling weather appeared to dampen enthusiasm for the sales in the centre of Belfast, where crowds were markedly lighter than in recent years. Retailers described trading as 'brisk'.

Leading article, page 11

## Overseas campaign to attract more pupils

By DAVID TYTLER  
EDUCATION EDITOR

A MAJOR overseas recruiting campaign is to be launched next year aimed at increasing boarding school rolls and saving some schools from closure.

The number of full boarders, who pay average fees of £9,000 a year, has consistently fallen since the second world war and now stands at 93,000 of the 475,000 pupils in schools represented by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis). In 1982 there were 112,000 boarders out of 404,000 pupils. The fall has been only partly compensated by the growth of weekly boarding, which now accounts for 10,000 children.

Next year's campaign will be directed at the Far East and Europe, including the nations of eastern Europe. Representatives of Isis will attend three international exhibitions, in Düsseldorf, Taiwan and Kuala Lumpur, in an attempt to improve overseas recruiting, seen as essential if boarding numbers are to be increased and schools saved.

The big-name schools are not affected, but smaller schools in remote areas where there is no readily accessible area of population for 50 or 60 miles face the threat of closure.

David Woodhead, director of Isis, said that numbers of overseas students had been affected by political changes in traditional markets such as Iran, and by the aggressive marketing of schools in America and Australia. In 1982 there were 33,500 overseas pupils, representing 4.4 per cent of pupils, but this year the figure fell to 22,700, fewer than 3 per cent.

An increase in students from abroad would have to be matched by better marketing at home, Dr Woodhead said. 'Boarding schools have got to market themselves more effectively in the United Kingdom quite apart from looking outside. They have to see what the market wants.'

'There are some boarding schools which are still against weekly boarding as they think it diminishes the whole ethos of boarding. As the number of parents looking for full boarding diminishes, the schools have to cater for the new type of parent, where both work and can see the advantages of boarding but want their children home at the weekend. It is better for the school to make that change willingly than to be forced into it.'

## Weatherline threatened with closure

By RONALD FAUX

THE Lake District national park weatherline, which warns hill walkers of treacherous weather, might have to close for want of a sponsor.

The weatherline, which the mountain rescue service believes has saved lives, is used by 250,000 walkers a year. In yesterday's severe weather, those who wanted to know the conditions on Helvellyn (3,113ft), one of the country's most popular mountains, need only to have picked up a telephone to learn that it was covered in fresh snow with ice underfoot, storm-force winds, a high wind chill factor and poor visibility.

This information was available only because Sue Thompson, a national park ranger, climbed Helvellyn to check and bring the report up to date.

Stewart Hulce, leader of the Langdale and Ambleside mountain rescue team, said that it would be a terrible loss if the service ended. 'It allows people to check if it is worthwhile setting out. If you've driven all the way the temptation to press on regardless of the weather is great and that is when accidents happen. A forecast is vital before setting out into the hills in winter.'

The Lake District service costs £15,000-£20,000 a year to provide. However, the national park fears that loss of sponsorship by a chocolate company will mean the service moving to a more expensive premium charge rate, making it less attractive, or that it will have to be abandoned.

## Road scheme protest grows

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE growing attack on the environmental consequences of the government's £17 billion roads programme is intensified today with a report calling for the scrapping of present methods of appraising road projects.

The government's system for deciding which roads to build is undemocratic, biased and works against the interests of the environment, the report, commissioned by a group of five wildlife trusts in southeast England and their parent body, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, says.

Present appraisal procedures, based largely on monetary cost-benefit analysis, are far too narrow and should be replaced with a fairer scheme allowing public transport alternatives to be assessed, more emphasis given to the environment and decisions made after more public debate.

The study, by Stephen Atkins, lecturer in transport planning at Southampton university, is the latest in a series of attacks on the extensive construction programme announced last year in the white paper, *Roads for Prosperity*.

A study produced for the same group in September showed that the programme threatens 372 important wildlife sites in nine southern counties alone, half supposedly protected, and that if the pattern were repeated for the whole country, more than 1,500 such sites would be put at risk. In October the National Trust said the programme threatened 30 of its estates or historic properties. Later that month the continuing destruction of wildlife sites by roadbuilding was publicly attacked by the Prince of Wales.

Environmental fears have been heightened by the government's decision to press ahead with several schemes, including the driving of the M3 motorway

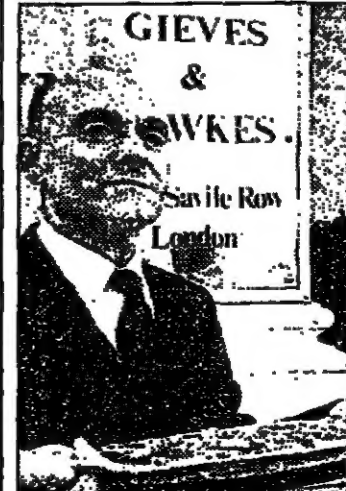
through Twyford Down in Hampshire and the extension of the A20 dual carriageway along the top of the white cliffs of Dover.

KPMG Peat Marwick, a firm of management consultants appointed to help to prepare new guidelines for environmental good practice for various government departments, is still to make its recommendations.

Rupert Harwood, the wildlife trusts' transport campaigner, said: 'The current appraisal system has devastated the environment, wasted billions of pounds and undermined democratic decision-making. Bureaucrats are making decisions that should be made by elected politicians. We are calling upon the government to abandon this archaic and disastrous system.'

*Unspoken Decrees: Road Appraisal, Democracy and the Environment* (Wildlife Trusts Transport Campaign, 80 York Way, London N1 9AG; £3.50)

Donald Weedon serving gentlemen's refresh at the Gieves & Hawkes sale



Donald Weedon serving gentlemen's refresh at the Gieves & Hawkes sale

## Mutant turtle eggs may pose salmonella health risk

By THOMSON PRENTICE  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of turtle eggs exported from America to be hatched into pets may harbour drug-resistant strains of salmonella bacteria that can cause serious illness, particularly in children.

According to a recent study in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, American turtle farmers are unwittingly breeding pets with antibiotic-resistant strains of the bacteria. Canadian health department scientists isolated 37 salmonella strains in 40,000 eggs

imported into Canada and found that all but seven were resistant to gentamicin, one of the most widely used antibiotics.

The study says that such high levels of antibiotic-resistant bacteria pose a serious human health risk. 'Further marketing of turtle eggs and hatchlings should be curtailed until consistent production and distribution of salmonella-free stocks can be assured.'

Five years ago the US Food and Drug Administration banned the domestic sale of turtles less than four inches long after researchers

found that almost 15 per cent of human salmonella cases in America could be attributed to contact with the pets. However turtle egg exports were not prohibited.

Robert Tauxe, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control, in Atlanta, Georgia, said baby turtles might look harmless but they were biological sponges of salmonella. Five million baby turtles and eggs were exported to Europe, Asia and South America last year and the demand is higher this year, probably because of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*

film. The mutant problem began because farmers, anxious to eradicate salmonella from the turtles, overused their eggs with antibiotics to which the bacteria developed resistance.

Adults are unlikely to suffer from the bacteria but children, whose natural defences against infection are not fully developed, are more vulnerable to symptoms of abdominal cramps, diarrhoea and vomiting.

Ronald Siebeling, a microbiologist at Louisiana state university, who developed the treatment for

the eggs, said that misuse of the drugs by farmers could lead to a big public health problem, and that was not acceptable.

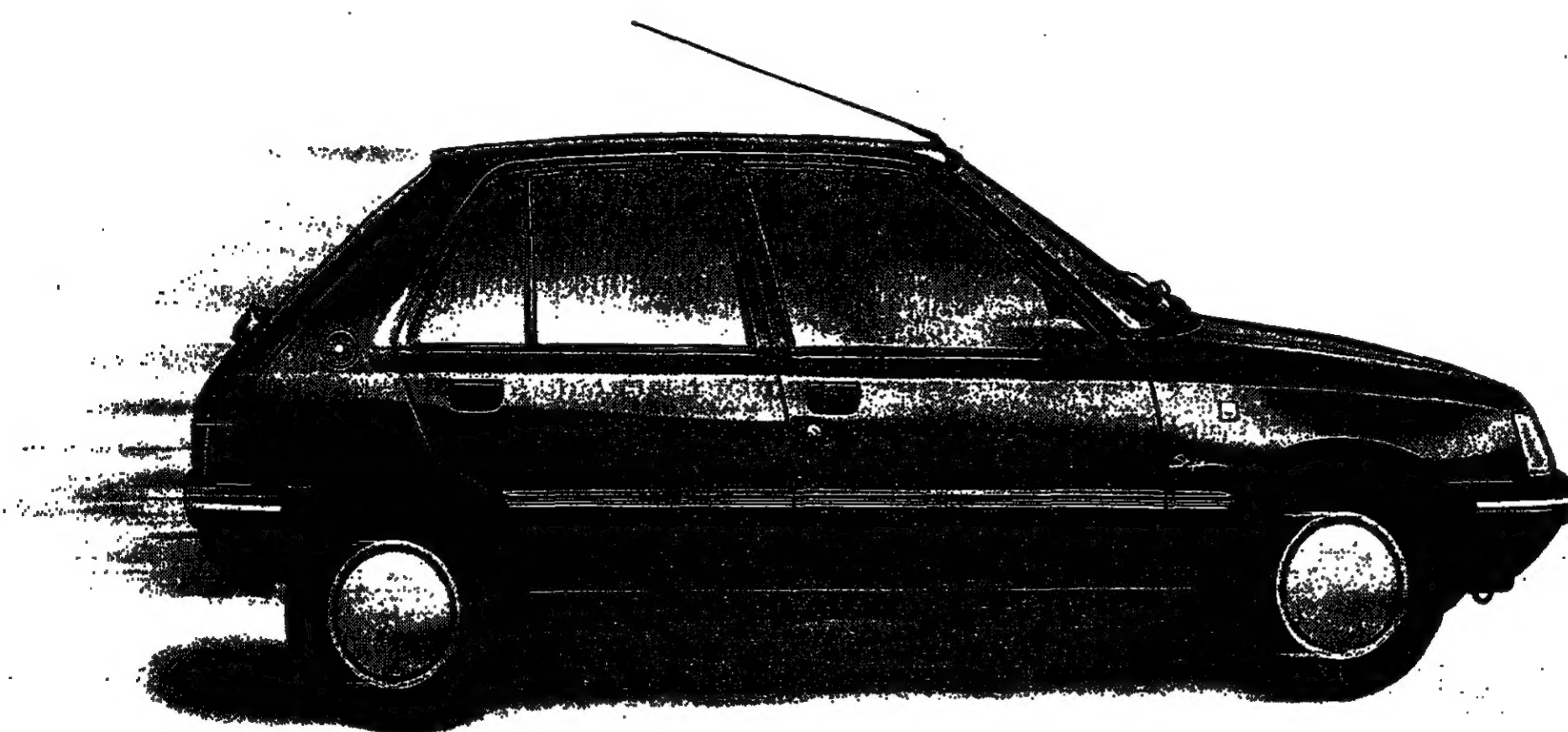
Turtle-linked illness has not yet surfaced as a health problem in this country but the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said that the film was boosting the sale of their terrapin cousins, also known to be salmonella carriers. About 1,000 of the common snapper species of American turtle are imported into Britain each year as aquarium and pond pets.



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Diesels have always been economical to run, but a higher purchase price has often been a barrier to buying one. Now Peugeot, the world's leading diesel manufacturer, have introduced the 205 and 309 Style diesels which - together with two major financial offers - make buying a diesel even more economical. Style diesels start from an attractive £7430\*.

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With Peugeot you don't have to sacrifice style for economy. The chic 205 Style is highlighted by the bright yellow bumper inserts, and the elegant 309 Style by the smart body pinstripe. Both cars proudly display the special Style badging and aerodynamic wheel covers. Inside, the 205 has unique grey denim trim with yellow piping. The 309 is graced with a grey chequered trim, which discreetly complements the exterior colour.

### YOUR STYLE OPTIONS

	205 Style D	309 Style D
COLOUR	STEEL GREY MIDNIGHT BLUE ALPINE WHITE	CHERRY RED REGENCY RED CALYPSO BLUE ALPINE WHITE
TRIM	GREY DENIM 3DR AND 5DR	CHEQUERS GREY 5DR

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Peugeot diesel technology combines smooth, refined power with carefully engineered suspension. This ensures that the 205 and 309 Style diesels are easy and satisfying cars to drive, whether you're nipping around town or taking the family on holiday. They're reliable too; the AA has chosen 309 diesels for 150 of their car inspectors, who drive thousands of miles a year and demand the very best reliability and economy.

### STYLE WITH ECONOMY

Diesel is a cleaner, more economical fuel and throughout the year has consistently cost less than petrol. Plus Peugeot diesels are renowned for their economy (the 205 Style D can do up to 72.4mpg at a constant 56mph; the 309 Style D returns 64.2mpg at a constant 56mph). They are inherently robust engines, with less to go wrong - so garage bills are likely to be lower. Peugeot diesels have a long life, so they hold their value well - when you come to sell your car, you can price it accordingly. To all these economical benefits, Peugeot have added two more:

### FREE £200 INTRODUCTORY BONUS

For a limited period, all new Peugeot 205 and 309 diesel cars are available with a £200 Introductory Bonus. It works like this: Claim your

Bonus Voucher by calling the FREEPHONE number below. Then, if you buy and register a new 205 or 309 diesel between 10th December 1990 and January 31st 1991, your dealer will validate the voucher. Simply return it to Peugeot's Head Office and you will receive a cheque for £200 direct from Peugeot. The bonus will not affect the deal you make with your local Peugeot dealer - so you are likely to save a lot more.

TO CLAIM TODAY, SIMPLY CALL  
**0800 300 705**

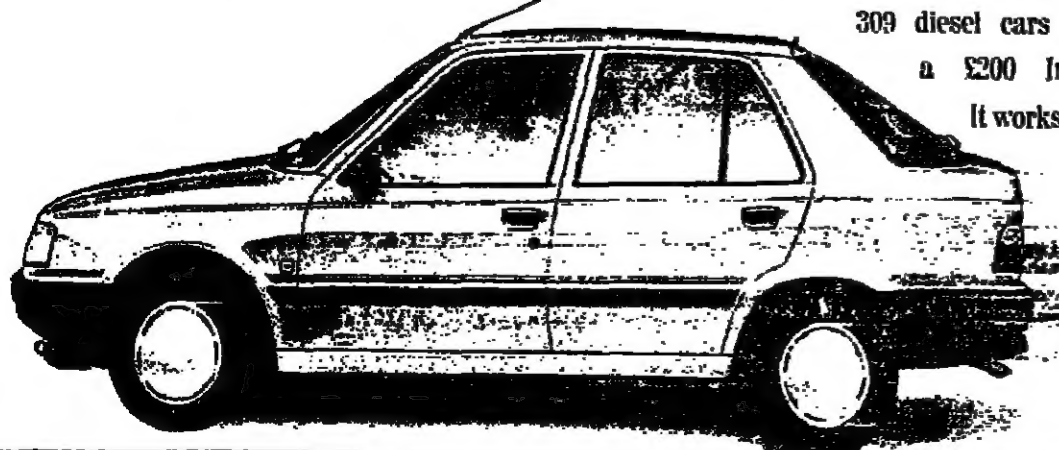
### PLUS PEUGEOT FLEXIBLE FINANCE\*\*

Peugeot are offering a number of attractive finance packages, including low deposit and deferred payment options. The table below gives an example of how much easier it could be to own your new Peugeot diesel. Ask your dealer for details.

	205 3dr Style D
ON THE ROAD PRICE	£7,830.00†
LOAN PERIOD	48 MONTHS
FLAT RATE/APR	7.9%/15.3%
DEPOSIT (10%)	£783.00
MONTHLY PAYMENT	£193.21
FINANCE CHARGES	£2,242.08††
TOTAL COST	£10,072.08

\*PRICE FOR 3DR 205 STYLE DIESEL EXCLUDING 6 MONTHS ROAD TAX, NUMBER PLATES AND DELIVERY - ESTIMATED COST £400.

Diesels have always been economical to run. Now a Peugeot diesel is more economical to buy.



PEUGEOT. THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

**PEUGEOT DIESELS**  
FUEL FOR THOUGHT

DOT official fuel economy figures for 205GRD: 72.4mpg at constant 56mph; 64.2mpg at constant 75mph; 52.3mpg simulated urban driving; 34.6mpg at constant 56mph; 47.2mpg at constant 75mph; 40.4mpg simulated urban driving. 1411 price correct at time of going to press and subject to availability. Metallic paint extra. Includes estimated on the road costs of 6 months Road Tax, Number Plates and Estimated Cost of Delivery but excludes the £200 Introductory Bonus. Cars illustrated: 2dr 205 Style D 1500cc and 5dr 309 Style D 1995cc. Peugeot Talbot Motor Co. Ltd. (Licensed Credit Brokers). For a written quotation contact Peugeot Talbot Credit, P.O. Box 340, Churchill Place, Churchill Way, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1GL. Offer subject to status (over 18 only). A guarantor may be required. Includes 115 Acceptance Fee payable with first instalment. Offer applicable for cars registered between December 10th 1990 and January 31st 1991 provided the bonus voucher is presented at purchase. Offer not applicable in Northern Ireland or on 245 cc.

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The London Philharmonic Orchestra has been granted a £1.5m grant by the Arts Council of Great Britain to help it meet its running costs. The grant will be paid over three years, with the first payment of £500,000 made in January 1991. The orchestra, which has 110 members, is the only one of its kind in the UK. It has been in existence since 1945 and has a reputation for its high standards of performance. The grant will enable the orchestra to continue its work and to expand its activities. The Arts Council is pleased to support the orchestra and to help it to achieve its aims.

LPO grants  
from Arts  
Council  
reduced  
By Simon Tarr  
The London Philharmonic Orchestra has been granted a £1.5m grant by the Arts Council of Great Britain to help it meet its running costs. The grant will be paid over three years, with the first payment of £500,000 made in January 1991. The orchestra, which has 110 members, is the only one of its kind in the UK. It has been in existence since 1945 and has a reputation for its high standards of performance. The grant will enable the orchestra to continue its work and to expand its activities. The Arts Council is pleased to support the orchestra and to help it to achieve its aims.

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# Kasparov triumphs in long-running duel of champions

GARY Kasparov, the defending world chess champion, has finally imposed his dominance on Anatoly Karpov after a duel that has spanned five encounters and half a decade.

Their first match began in Moscow in the winter of 1984 and was terminated on February 15 after 48 games with no final result. Kasparov, who had emerged from earlier doldrums, had won two games in a row and was predictably not amused.

His revenge came at Moscow in 1985 when, at the age of 22, he beat Karpov to become the youngest world champion. In return matches held in London and Leningrad in 1986 and Seville in 1987, Kasparov fought off Karpov but only by the narrowest of margins.

In Lyons, Kasparov's fiery genius has now produced an incontrovertible victory, being two points ahead with two games remaining, and having already secured the 12 points needed for retention

Gary Kasparov, the world's greatest chess player, has not seen the last of challenger Anatoly Karpov, Raymond Keene writes

of the world championship. The quality of chess played in this match has been equal if not superior to that in any former world championship match. Kasparov, aged 27, from Baku in Azerbaijan, must now be regarded as the greatest player in chess history.

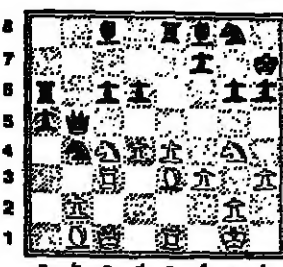
This match fell into two halves. The first 12 games were played in New York, with the remainder in Lyons. During the early rounds of the New York leg Kasparov was supremely dominant, his early successes epitomised by the second game. Here Kasparov made clear that he

believed Karpov's weak point to be his black defence in the Ruy Lopez opening, which he used repeatedly during the match.

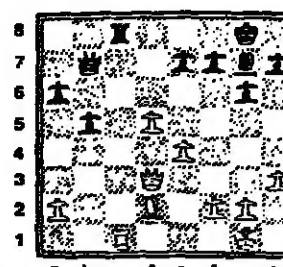
The key moment of the second game came when Kasparov sacrificed his bishop on move 25 with the move Bxb6 (see diagram). This move started a mighty offensive that swept Karpov away. In spite of this brilliant start, the remainder of the leg did not go all Kasparov's way.

He became bogged down in Karpov's excellent defensive technique and threw away many promising positions as he became frustrated at his opponent's refusal to crack under pressure. Kasparov lost game 7 after an uncharacteristic blunder, and after 12 games the scores stood level at six points each.

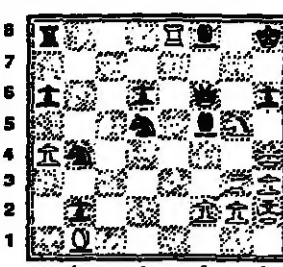
With the switch to Lyons the weight seemed to fall from Kasparov's shoulders. After 17 games, however, Karpov was still even. In game 17 (see diagram) with



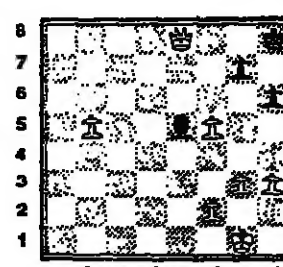
Game 2: the position before 25 Bxb6



Game 17: the position before 26 Rc6



Game 20: the position before 34 Qxb6+



Game 22: the position after the agreed draw

Karpov playing white, Karpov, after move 26 by playing Rc6, ensured penetration of Kasparov's camp. A few moves later Karpov reduced the black position to a shambles and forced Kasparov's resignation.

It was at this stage that the world champion started to take control. In game 20 (see diagram) Kasparov made a dramatic breakthrough culminating in the brilliant sacrifice of his queen to shatter Karpov's fortifications. The diagram shows the position after Kasparov, on move 31,

played Qxb6+. This queen sacrifice, rare at such a high level of chess, finally broke Karpov's resistance. The challenger had now gone two points down and although he strained every nerve in games 21 and 22 he could do no more than draw. The draw in game 22 gave Kasparov the title.

These two grandmasters are titans in the chess world. Kasparov, however, has the advantage of youth and has won four of his five world championship matches. He is 12 years younger than

Karpov, which gives him an edge in mental agility. Furthermore, Kasparov has never quite adjusted to the modern era of computer information, preferring to play on his own instincts. Kasparov, however, is a computer addict, whose headquarters are stacked with computer database chess moves. Kasparov has not just accumulated such information, he also knows how to retrieve it and utilise it to great effect.

All this, however, is unlikely to end Karpov's quest

for revenge and it will be surprising if he does not return as a challenger in 1993 when Kasparov must defend his title.

□ The deciding game 22 started with Kasparov, playing white, using the Ruy Lopez opening. By move 27, Karpov had established a phalanx of black pawns in the heart of the white position.

Kasparov, however, then sacrificed a piece to transform the game and on the 39th move forced a draw by perpetual check with his

queen. Although Kasparov's lead is unassailable, the prize fund of \$3 million (£1.6 million) will be divided according to the final number of points scored by each player. Game 23 is scheduled for tomorrow and game 24 for Monday.

□ The Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster tournament, Britain's premier grandmaster event, opens at Hastings today.

Kasparov (White)	Karpov (Black)
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Leading article, page 11

## London Zoo in funding appeal to avoid closure

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

LONDON Zoo, which last year had a record operating deficit of £4.9 million, might not survive without government financial help.

Government sources indicate, however, that more money is unlikely after a 1988 agreement that visitor attractions at the zoo should be self-financing, although the education and science department will continue to support the research-orientated Institute of Zoology with a grant next year of £1.4 million.

Only two years after the environment department provided a "final" rescue package of £10 million and absolved itself of future support, the Zoological Society of London is expected to appeal for more before the end of the financial year in April.

At a meeting in March between Lord Peyton of Yeovil, treasurer of the society, and Chris Patten, at that time the environment secretary, Mr Patten merely advised further management consultations. Lord Peyton said: "We can't be sure the zoo will survive until the end of the century. One or two more

years of bad results and the shadow of closure would return. There are major problems and it's difficult to see our way round them."

The £4.9 million operating deficit, which covers London Zoo and its sister wildlife centre, Whipsnade Park, was reduced to a more manageable £2 million after account was taken of interest payments. However, dire predictions are again surfacing at the zoo where attendances have fallen to 1.2 million a year from more than 3 million in the zoo's heyday in 1950.

Lord Peyton said: "When we went to see Chris Patten, we saw the situation as grave. We still have money but it was prudent to see him. We shall need to present the matter again to the new secretary of state, Michael Heseltine." In Mr Heseltine the society might hope for a sensitive response, for he served on the board of Zoo Operations Ltd, the society's subsidiary company, until his recent appointment to the cabinet.

As part of the strategy agreed in 1988 between the society and the government, Zoo Operations was formed as the society's operations arm to provide what visitors want. Visitor-orientated aspects of management were contracted out to the Grant Leisure Group, which has been responsible for much of the revolution at the zoo in the late 1980s. More than £4 million has also been spent in a marketing campaign to bring new dimensions to the zoo.

In spite of these innovations, however, David Jones, director of London Zoo and Whipsnade Park, said: "For various reasons we have not been able to increase our income to the point where we are not losing money. If we don't get further support, then clearly we have to think about the options, which might include closing down."

The society has also been hampered by the zoo's history, not least the fact that much of the zoo consists of protected buildings, and by the objection of local residents to leisure expansion. Planning restrictions and local pressure could lead to a switch of resources to Whipsnade where there is more scope for development. That could mean the end of London Zoo, where it costs £6,000 a year to feed an elephant and £15 an ant out of a total feeding bill of £750,000.

## LPO grant from Arts Council reduced

By SIMON TAIT

ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE London Philharmonic Orchestra has had its Arts Council grant cut for next year in what is seen as a criticism of its programme.

Yesterday's announcement of the last big grants for 1991-2 will be taken as a further slight to the South Bank Centre in the council's distribution of £194 million of subsidy to its 173 clients.

The council funds the four big London orchestras on a "concert-by-concert" basis. The LPO's grant of £465,000 has been reduced by 0.65 per cent to £462,000, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's increased by 5.5 per cent from £435,000 to £460,000. The Philharmonia's grant also rises, by 5.4 per cent from £540,000 to £569,000. All of the orchestras serve the South Bank and none will get anything from the Arts Council's new enhancement fund.

The fourth, the Barbican-based London Symphony Orchestra, will get an 8 per cent increase on its basic grant of £600,000, rising to £648,000, plus £400,000 from the enhancement fund, making a total increase of 75 per cent. John Wilan, managing director of the LPO, said: "I find this allocation very puzzling and we will be discussing it with the Arts Council." The LPO is to become the South Bank Centre's resident orchestra in April 1992. "We understand that we shall get a substantial increase in our subsidy for when we move into the South Bank, but the reasons for our basic grant being reduced at this point is difficult to understand."



Indian winter: to complement an exhibition on the Raj, the National Portrait Gallery is running a series of Indian dance classes for children until tomorrow. The teacher Sujata Banerjee is seen with Raphael Pepper, a pupil

## Makers want new-car tax scrapped to boost sales

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR makers are urging Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to drop the 10 per cent tax on new cars to revive flagging sales and encourage the scrapping of old, more polluting vehicles.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says that sales of new cars will fall further next year after a decline of more than 12 per cent this year caused by high interest rates and the recession. Sales, which peaked at 2.3 million last year, are expected to fall to 1.9 million next year, putting further pressure on manufacturers already bringing in short-time working and redundancies.

The 10 per cent special car tax brings in about £2 billion for the Exchequer. Car makers are arguing, however, that the government should trade the tax income for reviving Britain's biggest manufacturing

industry. In turn this would encourage the introduction of more environmentally friendly vehicles. The society says that models in showrooms create only half the pollution of those built a decade ago, with fuel consumption up to 30 per cent better.

A recent survey for the Royal Automobile Club showed that half the pollution blamed on cars came from under 17 per cent of vehicles, which were suffering from poor engine maintenance and tuning.

The fleet industry, however, says that older cars cannot be taxed to cut pollution and should be forced off the road by tighter regulation. Bill Hamer, managing director of the contract hire company ACL, which runs fleets totalling 12,000 cars, says that shorter-life vehicles are

needed to bring the benefits of "green" engine technology on to the roads more quickly.

He said: "More than eight million cars are seven or more years old. At the present rate old cars are finally laid to rest, it will be after the year 2,000 before Britain's national fleet complies with either today's new car emissions standards or the progressively stiffer ones affecting models built later in the decade."

Car manufacturers believe that Mr Lamont will move against the special car tax in his March budget but want him to adopt a general policy of less taxation on cars.

Simon Foster, director of the society, said: "If the government and the public are really longing to see the introduction of cleaner technology, then it is available in the range of new cars coming on to the roads."

## Canadian brings discrimination case

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A RACE relations tribunal in Cardiff is to hear the first case in Britain of alleged discrimination against a person because he is Canadian. The hearing will be the culmination of a six-year dispute at the Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Professor Arthur McConnell, head of strings at the Cardiff college, has brought the case against South Glamorgan county council because he says that his career has been blighted. He alleges that Peter Fletcher, the former principal, removed his main responsibility

and tried to oust him from his job out of prejudice against Canadians.

A second action, against Mr Fletcher, was dropped out of time at a preliminary hearing in March. Professor McConnell is, however, pursuing a separate action alleging defamation by his former principal.

The dispute dates back to the arrival of Mr Fletcher at the college in 1984 and his rapid introduction of changes. Professor McConnell was among the first staff to feature in the reorganisation. He said:

"I was in charge of the orchestra and most of the musical activities. They hired someone to take my place and took the substance of my job away from me."

Relations between the two men continued to deteriorate after the council held an inconclusive enquiry into their dispute. A final warning of dismissal against Professor McConnell was withdrawn after threats of industrial action by lecturers and the intervention of council officials.

Mr Fletcher took early retirement last year and is now

thought to be living abroad. He did not attend the preliminary hearing and it is not known whether he will return for the tribunal.

Professor McConnell, who has not returned to his former duties, is being supported by his union, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, and the Commission for Racial Equality.

The tribunal is due to hear the case on January 7. The council is refusing to comment until the proceedings are complete.

## Alcohol boost for cars cuts pollution

By NICK NUTTALL

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FUEL additives made from trees and plants can reduce pollution from motor vehicles, researchers said yesterday. Tests indicate that adding methanol and ethanol derivatives to petrol can significantly reduce carbon and other pollutants.

The preliminary findings are the result of tests carried out by American researchers with methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), a product of methanol, and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE), a derivative of ethanol fermented from corn. Scientists at Mobil Oil and General Motors added 15 per cent of the methanol derivative to the fuel of cars dating from 1989 and also to cars built between 1983 and 1985.

The alcohol-derived chemical cut carbon emissions from all ages of cars by 10 per cent, and smog-forming hydrocarbons by 5 per cent in the newer cars and 7 per cent in the older models.

Ian Berwick, director-general of the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association in London, said that MTBE was already being used in countries such as Germany and Holland.

In Britain it is being used sparingly to boost the octane and performance of cars running on lead-free petrol.

## Two killed as plane crashes near road

A pilot and passenger were killed when their light aircraft crashed and exploded close to a main road yesterday. The Cessna 150 came down in a field 100 yards from the A34 at Bullington Cross, near Whitechurch, Hampshire.

Rescuers were unable to save the two people on the blazing aircraft. The Cessna from the Dan Air flying club had taken off from Lasham airfield, Hampshire.

## Hospital remand

A computer researcher accused of driving into the gates of Buckingham Palace was remanded to hospital until January 16 under the mental health act by Bow Street magistrates. Edward Coates, aged 28, of Godalming, Surrey, is charged with criminal damage.

## Drink-drive ban

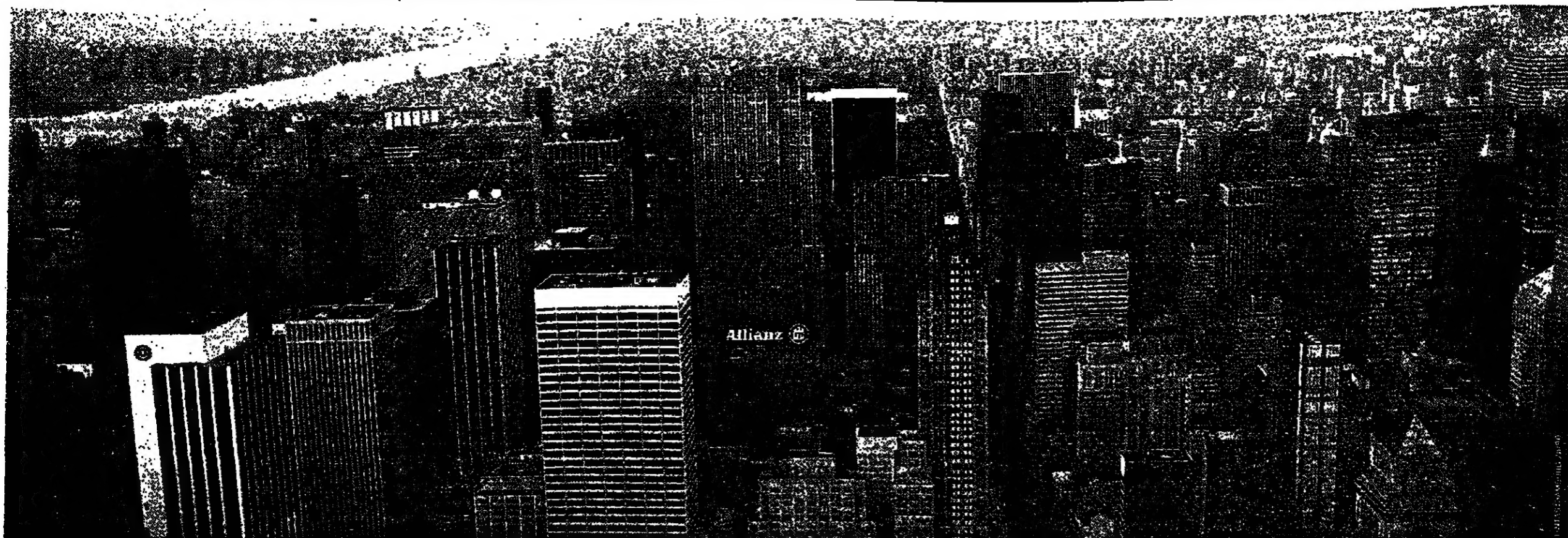
Magistrates in Coalville, Leicestershire, jailed Donald Mackenzie, aged 33, of Shirley, West Midlands, for five months and banned him from driving for 15 years when he was convicted of his fifth drink-driving offence.

## Body found

The body of Shaheer Ahmed, aged 16, who drowned when he fell into a river near his home in Edgaston, Birmingham, on Christmas day, has been found, police said.

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£10,000 - £24,999	Annually	14.00%	10.5%
£5,000 - £9,999	Annually	13.50%	10.12%
<b>PREMIUM INCOME ACCOUNT</b> (Monthly income account)			
£25,000+	Monthly	14.00%	10.50%
£10,000 - £24,999	Monthly	13.50%	10.12%
£5,000 - £9,999	Monthly	13.00%	9.75%
<b>SUPER SHARE PLUS ACCOUNT</b> (Flexible interest access)			
£30,000+	Annually	13.00%	9.75%
£10,000 - £29,999	Annually	12.25%	9.21%
£5,000 - £9,999	Annually	11.50%	8.75%
£1,000 - £4,999	Annually	10.75%	8.21%
£250 - £999	Annually	10.25%	7.75%
£21 - £249	Annually	9.00%	6.75%
<b>BONUS 91 ACCOUNT</b> (Closed account)			
£25,000+	Annually	15.75%	11.80%
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually	14.40%	10.80%
£5,000 - £9,999	Annually	13.00%	9.80%
£1,000 - £4,999	Annually	11.60%	8.80%
£250 - £999	Annually	10.20%	7.80%
£21 - £249	Annually	9.00%	6.80%
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## Black Chr. taps ritual

**S**carlett has been celebrating America's first Christmas as a free Christian country for Christmas Eve. The town of American Samoa, which has a population of 15,000, is celebrating Christmas Eve with a parade and a party. The parade will start at 7 p.m. and will feature a float with a Christmas tree, a float with a Christmas carol, and a float with a Christmas song. The party will be held at the town hall and will feature a Christmas dinner, a Christmas dance, and a Christmas concert. The celebration is being held in honor of the 100th anniversary of the United States' acquisition of American Samoa.



## Tax evasion case against ex-minister stuns Tokyo

From Joe Joseph in Tokyo

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party was stunned by scandal against yesterday, when Toshiyuki Inamura, a former cabinet minister and a sitting MP, was indicted for allegedly evading 1.7 billion yen (\$6.8 million) in taxes.

The big sum has shocked the Japanese, even though politicians rank among the country's richest and least respected people.

The indictment is a setback for the Liberal Democratic Party. They had been hoping to find portfolios in the imminent cabinet reshuffle for MPs sullied by last year's Recruit bribery scandal. They felt that the MPs tainted by this had served their time in the wilderness, and could now be welcomed back on the front benches. Mr Inamura's reminder of the blurred border between politics and money in Japan will make such a return politically difficult.

Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, said last night that he disapproved of Mr Inamura's actions. Opposition parties demanded Mr Inamura's resignation from parliament. Tokyo public prosecutors claimed yesterday that Mr Inamura dodged the taxman after running up profits of 2.8 billion yen from allegedly dubious stock deals carried out on the advice of Mitsubishi Kotani, a colourful share speculator who was arrested recently on charges of insider share trading.

If convicted, Mr Inamura faces a backdated tax bill and penalties of more than 2 billion yen.

Mr Inamura has been watching the chaos develop around him from a secret address in Tokyo. Without a complex legal process, MPs cannot be arrested while parliament is in session. But Tokyo public prosecutors gave him little doubt about his future when they raided his homes and offices last week, and then interrogated him on his stock dealings between 1986 and 1988.

For the first half of this period he was environment minister in the cabinet of Yasuhiro Nakasone. Throughout those three years, Mr Inamura was allegedly trading in stocks almost every day, often from his office in the parliament building. He carried out more than 1,000 share deals, involving more than 50 million shares. Environment ministry officials cautioned him against receiving streams of stockbrokers at his office.

Mr Inamura prepared himself for yesterday's well-spread events by resigning from the Liberal Democratic Party on Wednesday, though he is not expected to give up his seat in the lower house.

Before formally pressing charges yesterday, public prosecutors would have convinced themselves that Mr Inamura had used his profits for himself, buying fancy apartments, more shares or letting them earn interest at the bank. Had the money been used for Mr Inamura's political expenses, he may well have escaped the authorities.

Japanese politicians raise huge amounts of cash to court constituents with presents for their weddings and gifts at new year. Money raised for such political activities in Japan may be controversial, but is free of tax. The many MPs and cabinet ministers entangled in the Recruit scandal managed to avoid prosecution because they seemed to have used the windfall profits they gained from buying cut-price Recruit shares for political purposes.

One who did not, Takao Fujinami, once Mr Nakasone's chief cabinet secretary, allegedly used his gains to buy property. Mr Fujinami is awaiting trial for his links to Recruit.

Mr Nakasone himself was close to Mr Kotani, who is proving something of an embarrassment to his former friends and associates. One of Mr Nakasone's aides is reported to have made 120 million yen from trading in the shares of a company which Mr Kotani took over.



Taking hold: a Hong Kong fireman grabbing Cheung Ah Chi, aged 19, and dragging her away from the parapet of a 15-storey building as she prepared to jump to her death. Police said that the girl wanted to commit suicide after an argument with her boyfriend



## Rangoon sacks dissident MPs

From Reuters in Bangkok

BURMA'S military government has sacked eight members of parliament who fled to the border to set up a provisional government. Burmese state radio said. The eight were Sein Win, prime minister of the rival government declared at an insurgent base last week, and the members of his cabinet.

They won their seats in elections last May which gave the opposition a huge victory over the military-backed party. The ruling Rangoon junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, has since prevented the opposition from assuming power, and the parliament has not convened.

The judicial court has ruled that there is substantial evidence to deduce that the persons... have formed a parallel government and have made contacts and are co-operating with insurgent organisations which are engaged in armed struggle against the state," the broadcast, mentioned here, reported. "Their status as elected People's Assembly representatives has therefore been annulled."

Sein Win, chairman of the Party for National Democracy, announced the formation of the so-called National Government of the Union of Burma at a guerrilla base at Manerplaw on the border with Thailand on December 18. It links the politicians with 21 dissident and ethnic groups.

## Manila wins right to 'illegal' Marcos wealth

From A Correspondent in Geneva

THE Swiss supreme court yesterday dismissed five years of appeals from the family of the former president of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, and ruled that \$270 million (£142 million) held in Swiss banks should be returned to the Philippines.

But the transfer is conditional on a Philippines court bringing the late president's

widow, Imelda Marcos, and other members of the family to trial on fraud charges, the court ruled.

Guy Fontanet, the lawyer representing the Philippines government here, said he thought this was "possible but difficult". He said: "More than 1,200 people were killed in the last attempt at a coup d'état against President Aquino, after the court decision. It is not clear whether

she is prepared to risk more bloodshed, or whether any of the Marcos family could be brought back for trial."

Mrs Marcos and her children have sought asylum in Hawaii. Manila brought action in Swiss courts for the return of the money, but a series of appeals in lower courts delayed the proceedings and sent the case to the supreme court.

"The Marcos family have never made the slightest gesture towards a compromise in this matter," Mr Fontanet said. "In fact, they have done everything to delay things. They can do so no longer."

He said the money held in Swiss accounts had been "illegally acquired" and, for example, \$70 million held in an account in Fribourg "was siphoned off by Marcos from reparations paid by the Japanese government to the people

of the Philippines" after the second world war.

The court ruling turns over to the Aquino government all bank documents seized when Marcos was toppled. The money will follow as soon as a trial of the family has been held in the Philippines.

Bankers said this was the first time the Swiss government had agreed to a country's request to return money from personal numbered accounts.

## Cash lures to make Japanese multiply

By Joe Joseph

HAVING lost its faith in the birds and the bees, the Japanese government is taking procreation into its own hands before disaster strikes the nation. Officials, who subscribe to the apocalyptic view, say that unless drastic action is taken soon, the Japanese race will be wiped out in a millennium. Nobody accuses the Japanese of thinking short-term.

To persuade couples to make more babies, the annual budget, due to be approved by the cabinet within the next few days, has set aside an extra 50 billion yen (£19.6 million) to make reproducing more tempting. That is one-third more than in this year's budget. More child allowances and subsidies to nurseries and child-care centres are the lures.

The panic follows the results of Japan's latest census, published at the weekend, which put the population at 123,611,541, up just 2.1 per cent over the 1985 tally. It is the lowest growth rate since the second world war — a record low of 1.57 children per woman.

Tokyo fears that if the trend continues, Japan will have too few taxpayers to foot too many old people's pensions, and a scarcity of labour.

## Black Christmas taps ritual roots

From James Bone in New York

Scarcely have Jews in America finished celebrating Hanukkah, and Christians celebrating their Christmas, when millions of American blacks begin what they call "Kwanzaa".

Kwanzaa cards sit side by side with new year's missives in stationery shops; radio hosts discuss the seven key principles of Kwanzaa; and churches and museums are hosting Kwanzaa events.

Sometimes known as the "Black Christmas", the festival is in fact a secular celebration of "African-American" heritage dreamed up by a black power figure in 1966. For a week between Boxing day and new year, black American families gather nightly to replay elements from ancient African harvest rites. "Kwanzaa" is an abbreviation of the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning "first fruits".

"It's not really African, it's African-American," said George Calderon of the Studio Museum in New York's Harlem, which had to turn more than 100 people away from its Kwanzaa celebration this year. "It's not observed in

Africa. It's a uniquely African-American phenomenon." The festival was the brainchild of Maulana Karenga, a civil rights leader who now teaches at California university.

For seven nights, families gather to light a red, black or green candle, the colours of black nationalism, in a seven-pronged candle-holder similar to a Jewish menorah, and sip from a "unity cup" called a *kikombe*.

Each night celebrants discuss one of seven principles, the *Nguzo Saba*, laid down by Mr Karenga after extensive research into African customs. The principles are *umwa* (unity), *kuhicha-gulia* (self-determination), *ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *ujamaa* (co-operative economics), *nia* (purpose), *kawimba* (creativity) and *imani* (faith).

Black nationalists contend that Kwanzaa eschews the cult of personality characteristic of Christmas. The festival could, however, fall victim to its own success, and become just another commercial celebration of shopping.

Dickensian dark, page 10

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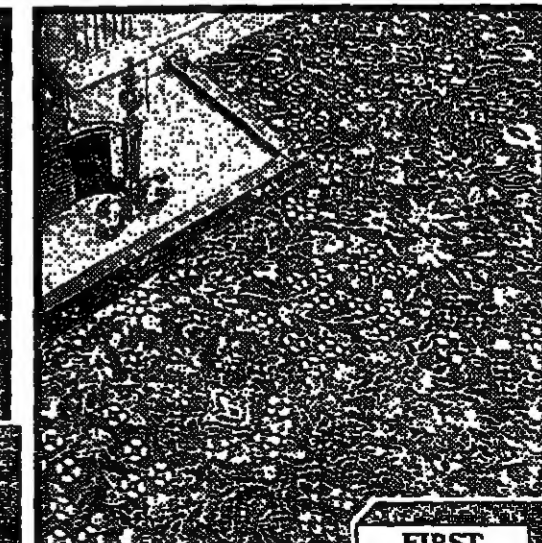
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Europe and America from Bahrain are full from January 2 to January 15, the UN deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait, British Airways and Gulf Air said here. (AFP)



## Stalemate in Gulf diplomacy despite 'readiness' to talk

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD

THE American chargé d'affaires, Joe Wilson, said yesterday that he and the Iraqis had not spoken to one another for several days regarding dates for a meeting, although President Saddam Hussein said yesterday he was ready for "serious and constructive dialogue" with the United States, "based on mutual respect".

Mr Wilson vehemently denied one news report that he had been holding talks with the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, and other foreign ministry officials. "It is a very sensitive time," Mr Wilson said, "but there have been no contacts recently."

He insisted that he had "not given up on the diplomatic process" but Western officials say they still see no sign of an imminent meaningful dialogue between Baghdad and Washington.

With only 18 days to go before the UN deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, America and Iraq have both expressed readiness separately to hold a direct dialogue. But neither appeared able to find agreement on either the timing for an exchange of visits by their foreign ministers, or on the agenda.

Meanwhile, President Saddam, after talks yesterday with his top foreign envoys

called home for consultations, said that dialogue with Washington was possible, but only if it included talks on the Palestinian question - a linkage Washington has firmly rejected.

"Iraq is ready for serious and constructive dialogue," the Iraqi leader said, "but rejects American arrogance, vanity and imposition of will. Iraq's linkage of the region's issues, with priority given to the Palestinian question and rights of the Palestinian people, is a correct, patriotic and humanitarian policy."

Yesterday the tone of Iraqi officials and in the state-run media, while still vehemently anti-Western, lacked the usual sabre-rattling and "come and get us" rhetoric which had dominated news items in recent days.

Some observers said that, sharp words notwithstanding, the renewed emphasis by Baghdad on starting dialogue was a positive sign, which may be followed by an overtone which some diplomats have hinted could happen around the first day of the new year. Top EC embassy officials were said to be holding their weekly meeting at the Italian embassy to explore new avenues of diplomacy, but sources could not even agree on whether the meeting was being held at all. Following the arrival in

Baghdad of a senior Soviet government official, a Soviet embassy spokesman said most of the 2,300 Soviet civilians working in Iraq would be allowed to leave for home within a week. The spokesman said talks with the Iraqis were "going smoothly".

"We expect all but a few hundred of our citizens to leave Iraq by chartered aircraft no later than January 3."

The deputy chairman of the Soviet council of ministers, Igor Belousov, arrived yesterday with the Soviet deputy oil and gas minister, as well as the head of the Soviet foreign ministry's Middle East section. The official Iraqi News Agency said that Mr Belousov "lauded Iraq's initiative to allow Soviet experts to stay or leave as they wished".

The two sides had been at stalemate for several weeks over the issue of penalties to be paid to Iraq for broken Soviet contracts by workers in the oil and power industries. Neither Soviet nor Iraqi officials would say how they had resolved their differences.



Taking stock: Trooper Shawn Fowler, from Preston, Lancashire, of the 4th Armoured Division, eating a sandwich after driving his newly arrived Challenger tank from its transporter in Saudi Arabia yesterday

## Public posturing masks continued search for peace

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ON CHRISTMAS day, President Saddam Hussein sent Joe Wilson, the US chargé d'affaires in Baghdad, a cake shaped like a yule log and a floral arrangement of purple and lavender zinnias. Mr Wilson sent Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Christian foreign minister, a bottle of Californian wine. The exchanges were small, but telling.

With Christmas over, the sobering reality is that just 18 days remain for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or precipitate a bloody Middle East conflict. US officials say they see not the slightest sign of President Saddam backing down, while President Bush is said to have "crossed the Rubicon" and reconciled himself to war. But to suggest that it is now all over, bar the shooting, is wrong. Behind the belligerent public postures of both sides, the search continues for a way to avert bloodshed, and over the next two weeks there may be some surprising developments.

For reasons the White House would not divulge, Mr Bush broke his Camp David holiday for a brief trip back to Washington. That included a meeting with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet ambassador, while a senior official said in an interview that the US was considering a couple of unspecified moves to strengthen the message to Iraq that it was deadly serious about going to war.

To date, President Saddam has proved remarkably shrewd in knowing just how far he can push the Americans, and the US official said it was entirely possible that the Iraqi leader may make some move between now and January 15 to forestall a US attack.

US strategy is based on the belief that the Iraqi leader is still not convinced that a divided America would go to war over Kuwait.

The quickest way to dispel that misconception would be to seek congressional approval for military action. It would be a high-risk move, given that many Democrats want sanctions to be given more time, but it is one Mr Bush is considering and he may gamble that Congress would not dare undercut the nation's stand, and that of the United Nations, so late in the day

## Rock show ban angers French

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

A TELEVISION documentary broadcast yesterday described as "very bitter" the mood of French frontline troops in the Gulf after Saudi authorities banned at the last minute two Christmas concerts by one of France's veteran rock stars.

A crew from the Antenne-2 channel accompanied the 48-year-old singer, Eddy Mitchell, on his abortive desert tour. Their report, shown at peak time last night, showed the deep disappointment of foreign legionnaires at the most forward French positions at Miramar, 50 miles from the Iraqi border, after the first performance was cancelled.



Chevènement: promise of a special Gulf medal under Saudi official pressure on Saturday

A second concert was called off on Sunday half an hour before it was due to start, when 1,500 French soldiers had already assembled in front of a stage in the desert.

The French defence minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, cancelled a meeting with his Saudi opposite number, Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, on Sunday to protest at the "very regrettable incident". M Chevènement said

during a Christmas visit to the French contingent of 6,500 men in Saudi Arabia: "I do not think that Eddy Mitchell is a subversive singer."

"The songs of Eddy Mitchell were not threatening Islamic values any more than they threaten Christian values in France."

The affair has stirred grumbling in the French press. The left-wing newspaper *Libération* asked why Bob Hope had been allowed to entertain American troops in Saudi Arabia. "Is Bob Hope less subversive than Eddy Mitchell or has Washington been more convincing than Paris?" *Le Figaro* said: "The discontent is general among the servicemen who do not understand the reason for this contretemps with the Saudis."

One French officer was quoted as saying: "We are perhaps going into the firing line for them and they deprive us of a concert."

Colonel Mercier, the second-in-command of the 1st Regiment of Spahis, an armoured cavalry unit, said the cancellation "is going to deal a blow to morale. One never ought to have promised something that could not be kept."

The French defence minister sought to boost morale during his Christmas visit by announcing that all French troops will be awarded a special "overseas medal" for Gulf service as well as a pay bonus for hazardous duty.

After the two concerts were cancelled, Mitchell, who first made a name for himself in the late 1950s and was known for his opposition to the Algerian war in the 1960s, borrowed a guitar from a Foreign Legion NCO and made an unauthorised visit to some of the troops, serenading them briefly.

## Build-up in Jordan

Amman - Jordan is beefing up troops along its frontier with Israel amid fears that the Jewish state might become involved in a Gulf war, official sources said yesterday. They said troops and tanks were being moved into place in case Israel attacked Iraq through Jordan.

The sources said Mudar Badran, the prime minister of Jordan, during a visit to Syria over a week ago, discussed co-ordinating their defences in the event of an Israeli attack. Jordan fought Israel in 1948 and 1967, and in the latter war a ceasefire line was declared along the Jordan valley. (Reuters)

## Kuwait warning on peace efforts

Peking - The Kuwaiti foreign minister, Sabah al-Sabah, said it was too late for Gulf peace initiatives from China or any other country (Catherine Sampson writes).

He was speaking in Peking, where the Emir of Kuwait, Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, is holding talks with President Yang Shangkun of China. Peking repeated its call for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

## Flights full

Manama - All flights to Europe and America from Bahrain are full from January 2 to January 15, the UN deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait, British Airways and Gulf Air said here. (AFP)

## US task force

Manila - A 13-ship US Navy amphibious task force arrived at Subic Bay, the US naval base in the Philippines, en route to join forces in the Gulf area against Iraq, a navy spokesman for the US 7th Fleet said. The task force, which left San Diego two weeks ago, is the biggest to leave America's west coast since the Vietnam war. (AP)

## War opposed

Toronto - Most Canadians are against their country's involvement in a possible Gulf war against Iraq, according to a Gallup poll. It said that 55 per cent of Canadians oppose going to war, with 36 per cent in favour and eight per cent with no opinion. (Reuters)

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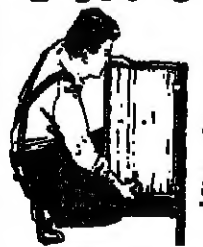
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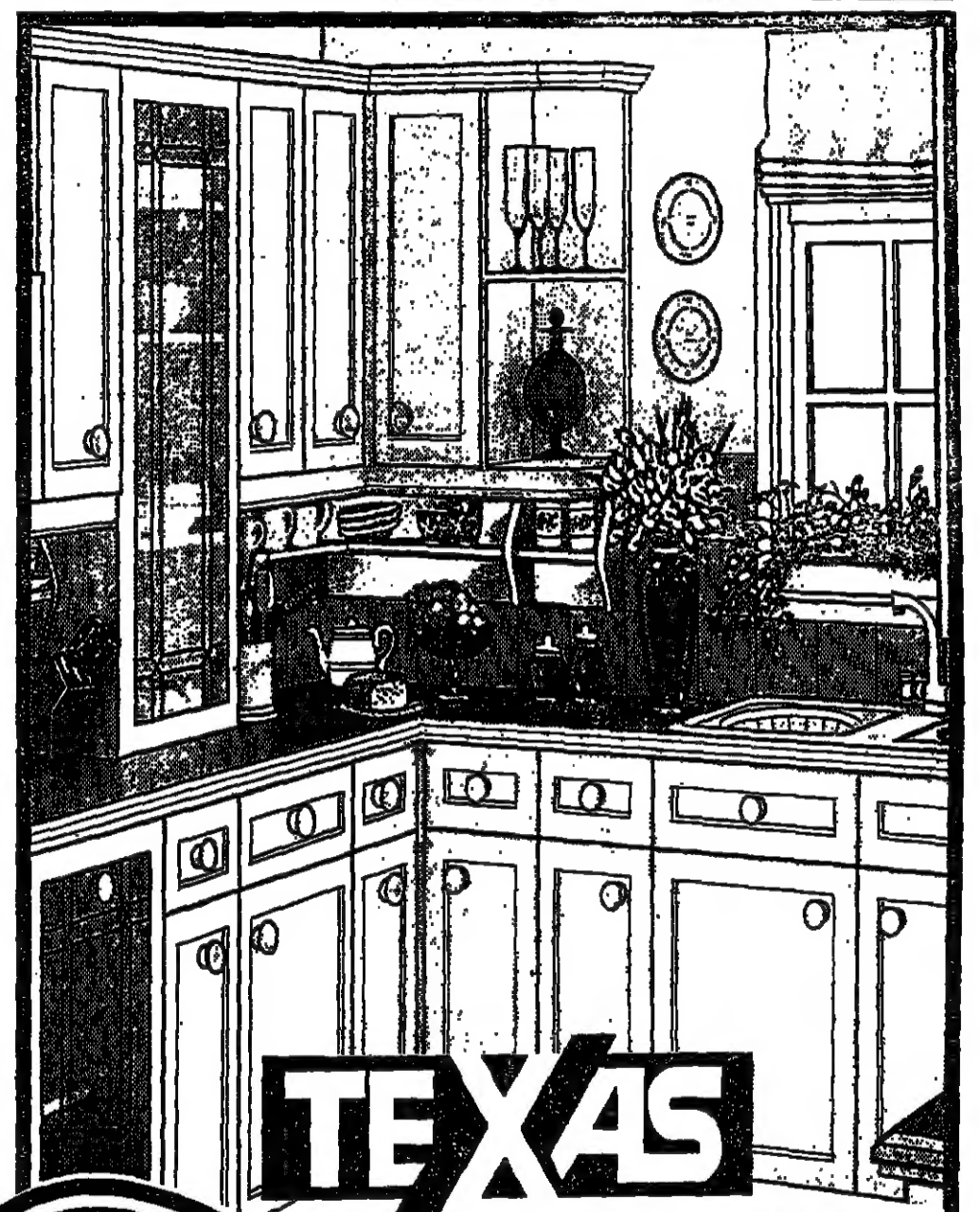
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Philip Howard

## All doublets and pose

Journalists are chatterers and preachers, at their VDUs if not necessarily in their social life. *C'est notre métier* to produce an off-the-peg opinion or description at the drop of a deadline. Coleridge, in addition to his many other virtues and failings, was an incorrigible journalist. Charles Lamb was a generally acquiescent audience to the garrulous pontificator. One day, when Coleridge had been banging on at length and at random, he suddenly interjected the question: "Charles, have you ever heard me preach?" "I've never heard you do anything else," replied the patient Lamb.

Our trade is to produce words fast — preferably persuasive, interesting and amusing words, but at any rate fast. The most powerful piece in the world is useless if it misses the deadline. As a consequence, we are prodigious with words, using a garden hose rather than a syringe to make our point. We never use one epithet if we can think of half a dozen to spray at the reader. A most important part of writing is revising, pruning superfluities that are not pulling their weight. It is a practice that journalists find repugnant. We want to tap the piece out and shoot it to the composing room as quick as we can. That old news editor, Horace, recommended keeping any piece for nine years before publishing it. Nine years is a bit long for a daily paper, but the principle is sound.

Our journalists' liberality (prodigality?) with language is producing a vice in modern English that we might call duplication. It consists of never using a single word if there are a couple of yoked words that give the same meaning nearly as well. We tend to write ground rules, when what we mean is rules. Ground rules originally had a specific sense in sporting jargon, meaning the idiosyncratic rules devised for a particular ground or course. From some baseball yarns: "In the olden days there was a ground rule which only allowed two bases for a hit over this fence." It was too snazzy a phrase to be left to the sporting pages, and it has now virtually replaced plain rules in journalism. The only point in it is if there is some difference in these rules from other similar ones: "The ground rules of American press conferences are different from ours." Nine out of ten instances of ground rules in the blats are just any old rules. Ground rules have become an irritating cliché.

Role models we have picked up not from the sports pages but from the doggy jargons of sociology and psychology. In those disciplines, it is used as a technical term to mean someone who, in the performance of a role, is taken as a model by others. "If the teacher was a role model, parents were obviously unaware of it." I do not see that

the addition of "role" adds much to plain model in such contexts. But let it pass. Even sociologists have a right to their own jargon. But there is no need for us journalists to pick up the shiny new phrase and bang it in all over the place, where model does perfectly well on its own. But, of course, we do. And we are showing a predictable taste for the even newer doublet of role play, which is all the rage in the jargon of management training studies.

Sea-change is a much older journalistic doublet. We have nicked it not from the sports pages or the sociologists' glossary, but *The Tempest*, and whenever we write change, we make it sea-change, to suggest to the casual reader that we are cultivated chaps, from whose desks the collected works of Shakespeare are seldom absent. The point of the original sea-change was that Alonso's bones were supposed to be turning to coral, his eyes into pearls, and his other bits being transmuted in ways thought appropriate to prolonged immersion in salt water. Within a few weeks of the first production of *The Tempest* the backs and broadsheet balladeers had no doubt picked up the pretty phrase as a knowing variant for a plain old change. Ariel would be gob-smacked at how far the phrase from his song has travelled, and into what strange waters. Here is an example from "Edmund Crispin" in *Glances of the Moon* (he was pretty keen on Shakespeare): "He could, moreover, bring about a sea-change in the image of even the most bumbling police officers going about their duties, so that they emerged as prodigies of intelligence, zeal and kindness." Yes, but what has it to do with the sea, officer? Oh well, you can justify it by saying that a sea-change has become a cliché for a radical metamorphosis. But I think that 99 out of 100 instances of sea-change would be improved by deleting sea.

Does shelf-life (a term from the new jargon of supermarkets) mean anything more in journalistic use than plain life? Distinguish between a track record and an ordinary record. Do you really need to write "user-friendly"? Is answer back saying more than answer, or end-user than user? Most of these doublets seem to be both tautologous and jargon.

When Peter Jay was economics editor of *The Times*, an intrepid sub approached him near edition time and said that he could not make head or tail of his column about the Budget. P. Jay replied, majestically: "This column is meant to be understood by only half-a-dozen people in the country; and you are not one of them."

At a less exalted level, the ground rules and role models of journalism aim for a wider readership.

...and moreover

## ALAN COREN

Boxing Noon, and Hampstead Heath resembles nothing so much as the gate-scattered covers of all those comic annuals ripped yesterday from their urgent stockings. So many bright new Mickey Mouse gloves! So many bright new Rupert Bear vests! So many bright new Garfield earmuffs and Kermit boots and Peanut pullovers! The world, new-laminated, is crying "Hallo, Chums!" Cavouring gaily in the drizzled gloom, all this indecent giffery — on adult and child alike — seems to bespeak not so much Christmas as some medieval Haberdasherie Fayre upon which the city's connoisseurs and hostesses and merchants and drapers and hat-makers have descended to propitiate their diverse tutelary gods and flog their latest lines.

It is all so cartoon-jolly that I do not immediately notice that something is missing. What makes me finally notice it is the singularly poignant sight of a small boy sledging down the sodden East Heath slope towards the Vale of Health. He has new yellow moonboots on, and a new Snoopy flying helmet. He has a new sled. He could be on the cover of the *Beano Annual*, were it not for the one thing he does not have. He does not have snow.

Poor little beggar. He is making a valiant fist of it, shoving himself off from just beneath me, lurching down the wet grass, slaloming the bushes with expert toe and mitten, bumping to a halt after a dozen yards, then struggling up again, his mudcaked sled trailing erratically behind him on its sodden string. Had he snow, he would not stop at all, he would hurtle on, shrieking joyously, scattering the pirouetting skaters on Hampstead Pond and finally fetch up, breathless, in Goshop Oak. Because, if he had snow, there would be skaters on Hampstead Pond today, rather than the goosebumped madmen flaunting their traditional bragadocio in the unfrozen ooze.

Maybe, in his head, he has it. The imagination, at seven, is rich. Maybe he goes down the hill with six hushies in front and a pack of wolves behind. Maybe the unflagging effort is all about

getting to Goshop Oak before Amundsen. My point (I have just decided) is that he shouldn't have to. He is forced to imagine only because he is forced to compensate for unnecessary disappointment. He should not have been led to expect snow. He should not have torn open his bedroom curtains, immediately after turning open his sled-wrappings, to have his heart sunk by only drizzle specking the panes.

For two months now, cotton-wool has been his promissory note. He has stared through it at frosted toys, while Muzak jingled sleigh-bells at him. Tempted inside, he has sat on Santa's snow-boated knee, and heard how reindeer struggle through blizzards on behalf of good little boys. All his weekly reading has featured snow-capped mastheads, all the stuff within has occupied itself with snowball fights, thin ice, risible snowmen, and mad dogs happily frozen suddenly solid in the act of going for a newsboy's shin. Everything he has watched on television has ostensibly taken place in arctic conditions, and all anyone has talked about has been the prospect of the white Christmas of which he has been encouraged to dream.

No chance. We have not had a white yule in 20 years, and the odds on our warming globe ever offering one must be incalculably long. This isn't Lapland. Christmas snow is but one more EC standard to which we have let ourselves be hijacked. Is it not time to chuck this damaging delusion?

What it does here at Christmas is rain. We should make this a meteorological virtue. Let us have a British Santa in cherry yellow oilskins and sou'wester, ho-ho-ing through the drizzle in a dory tugged by six big cod. Let fake raindrops wrinkle down our shop windows from autumn on, let our cars show robins on flying spray, and each display, advertisement and grotto anticipate the joys of snug dry firesides bonding happy families together against the cats and dogs beyond.

Sing *I'm Dreaming of a Wet Christmas*, Cliff, and let's be done with it.

# Why I have embraced Islam

Salman Rushdie explains his affirmation of the Muslim faith and his decision to restrict publication of *The Satanic Verses*



A man's spiritual choices are a matter of conscience, arrived at after deep reflection and in the privacy of his heart. They are not easy matters to speak of publicly. I should like, however, to say something about my decision to affirm the two central tenets of Islam — the oneness of God and the genuineness of the prophecy of the Prophet Muhammad — and thus to enter into the body of Islam after a lifetime spent outside it.

Although I come from a Muslim family background, I was never brought up as a believer, and was raised in an atmosphere of what is broadly known as secular humanism. (I should mention that the most Indian Muslims affirm the value of the secular principle, seeing it as their best safeguard as a minority group in a predominantly non-Muslim country.) I still have the deepest respect for these principles. However, as I think anyone who studies my work will accept, I have been engaged more and more with religious belief, its importance and power, ever since my first novel used the Sub poem *Conference of the Birds* by Farid-ud-din Attar as a model. *The Satanic Verses* itself, with its portrait of the conflicts between the material and spiritual worlds, is a mirror of the conflict within myself.

In short, I have been finding my own way towards an intellectual understanding of religion, and religion for me has always meant Islam. That journey is by no means over. I am certainly not a good Muslim. But I am able now to say that I am Muslim; in fact it is a source of happiness to say that I am now inside, and a part of, the community whose values have always been closest to my heart. I have in the past described the future over *The Satanic Verses* as a family quarrel. Well, I'm now inside the family, and now Muslims can talk to Muslims and continue the process of reconciliation that began with my Christmas Eve meeting with six Muslim scholars.

This meeting, described in some sections of the western press as a defeat, was in fact a victory for compassion, understanding and tolerance. For over two years I have been trying to explain that *The Satanic Verses* was never intended as an insult; that the story of Gibril is a parable of how a man can be destroyed by the loss of faith; that the dreams in which all the so-called "insults" occur are portraits of his disintegration, and

explicitly referred to in the novel as punishments and retributions; and that the dream figures who torment him with their assaults on religion are representative of this process of ruin, and not representative of the point of view of the author. This is not a disavowal of my work, but the simple truth, and to my great pleasure it was accepted as such.

The six scholars and I agreed that the controversy over *The Satanic Verses* was based on a tragic misunderstanding, and we must all now work to explain to Muslims everywhere that neither I nor my work have ever been inimical to Islam. They agreed that over the last 15 years I have in fact shown myself to be an ally of Muslims, whether in Kashmir, or the rest of India, or Palestine or in Britain, where I have frequently written and broadcast against all forms of discrimination.

"We want to reclaim you for ourselves," one of the scholars said, and I replied that I, too, wished to reclaim them. The mood of the meeting was generous and even affectionate, and it

moved me greatly. I am told that already, in many Muslim countries and communities around the world, that mood of affection has begun to replace anger. Goodwill is replacing ill-will. That is cause for celebration.

As a contribution to that new atmosphere of goodwill, I have agreed not to permit new translations of *The Satanic Verses*, nor to publish an English-language paperback edition, while any risk of further offence remains. This is because the process of peace will take time. The crisis has been long, bitter and deep. Reconciliation after such a crisis takes time. I have sought to create the atmosphere for that reconciliation.

As to the question of total withdrawal of the book, I would say this. In spite of everything, *The Satanic Verses* is a novel that many of its readers have found to be of value. I cannot betray them. Even more important is the recognition of Muslim scholars that the book is not a deliberate insult. Had they felt otherwise, I might well have thought again. As it is, I believe the book must continue to

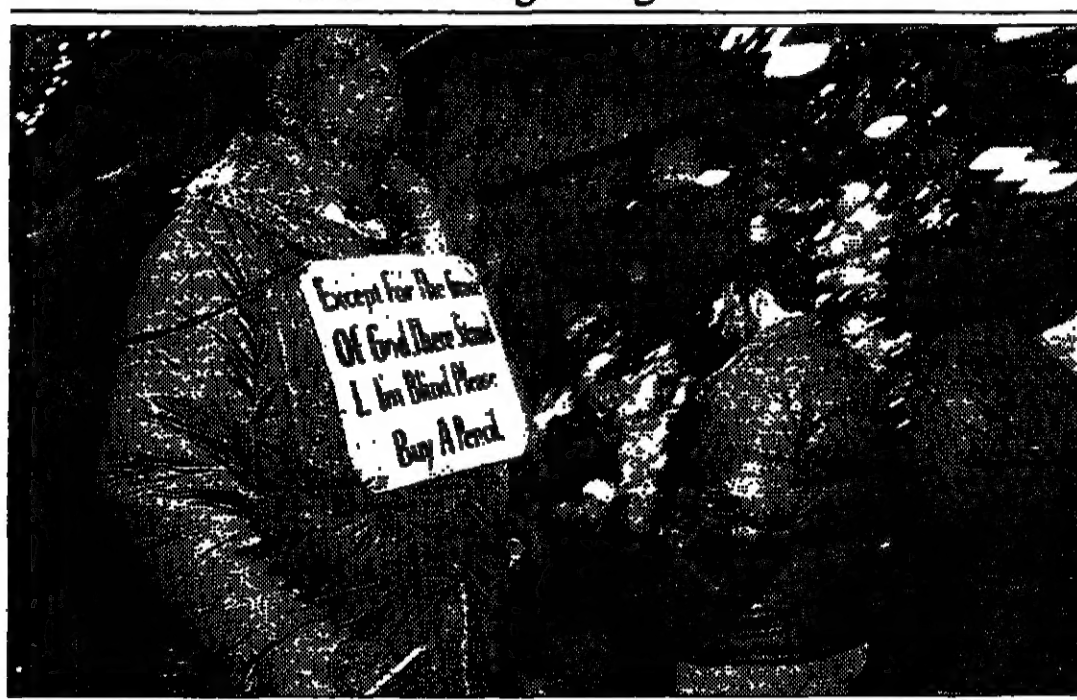
be available, so that it can gradually be seen for what it is. I will discuss with Penguin Books the possibility of adding to the existing hardback editions a statement declaring that it is not intended as an attack on Islam.

I said on December 24 that I felt a good deal safer in the aftermath of my meeting with the scholars than I had the day before. That is still true, although I obviously regret the renewed threats from Tehran and cannot help wondering why the British government seems no longer to feel any need to respond to such threats. My real safety, I have long believed, lies in the attitudes of the Muslim community at large. My meeting with the scholars, at which they declared themselves satisfied with the sincerity of my position, is the traditional Islamic way of resolving an issue of alleged offence against Muslim sanctities.

I know that most Muslims will be content with what has been achieved, and will now wish this matter to be laid to rest. I appeal to all Muslims, and to Muslim organisations and governments everywhere, to join in the process of healing that we have begun. What I know of Islam is that tolerance, compassion and love are at its very heart. I believe that in the weeks and months to come the language of enmity will be replaced by the language of love.

## Dickensian darkness seeps to the heart of New York

Charles Bremner on a city where freewheeling attitudes to social disaster are beginning to wear a little thin



It's a wonderful town: competition has made the beggars a touch more entrepreneurial this Christmas

After the hollow merriment of New York's most melancholy Christmas for years, it was almost a relief to switch on the early news on Boxing Day and bathe in the usual week-day headlines. "Fire tragedy strikes Bronx family..." intoned the cheery reader, using the standard formula employed by all five local stations after a quiet night in Gotham City. Identical words could be heard on the rival channels. There followed news that four people were wounded in a Christmas-night shoot-out among patrons at a suburban cinema, and that the city council had awarded its school bus contract to a Mafia-owned company. What, no Trump item and not a mention of John Gotti, those regulars in New York's cast of colourful rogues and villains? Not to worry, there was a passing reference to the Dapper Don, as Mr Gotti is always called in newscasts. He had, we learnt, enjoyed his turkey along with other prisoners being held without bail over Christmas.

It may seem ghouliah, but the horrors of the local news provide New Yorkers with a sort of black comedy, a familiar commentary on the state of the city. There is a village-like cosiness in keeping up with the antics of its favourite personae, most of whom go by first names or aliases. As well as the Don and the Donald, the list includes the Reverend Al (Sharp) (Helmley, the hotel owner), Dave (Dunkles, the mayor), Ed (Koch, the former mayor), even the Jigger (the who was raped in Central Park). It is almost as if the city, now deep in one of its periodic crises, takes a perverse pride in its role as the most extreme of everything the country has to offer. New York has grown blasé about ills that would send lesser towns into despair. However, in recent months, this old spirit has been wearing thin as the social fabric of the metropolis has been stretched to breaking point.

Much of the gloom comes from the depression of a middle class being pummeled for the excesses of the Eighties. More than 100,000 New Yorkers have lost jobs over

the past year in the financial and service industries which boomed in the last decade. House prices, inflated beyond reason, have collapsed amid predictions that they are unlikely to recover before the next century. One sign that things are really bad is the complaint this month from the psychotherapy profession that its members are falling on hard times through a shortage of clients. New Yorkers are staying away not only from the shrink, but from the shops, where fear of the future put a cramp on Christmas spending.

The sense of loss this season has been heightened by the deaths in recent months of such figures from the civilised past as Irving Berlin, Greta Garbo and Leonard Bernstein. Most of all, however, the despondency springs from a level of violence that seems to have returned the city to a darker age. Some 2,200 people have been murdered this year, including 32 taxi drivers shot in robberies and 10 children hit by stray bullets.

With its wild contrasts of squalor and opulence, toughness and sentimentality, New York has always had a Victorian feel, and never more so than at Christmas, when the tree glows outside the Rockefeller Centre, the Empire State Building shows its lighting and children gather around the shopwindows of Fifth Avenue. This year, however, the atmosphere has become positively Dickensian, so much so that citing Dickens parallels has become a party game. The author came to the future Big Apple in 1842 and wrote in his *American Notes* of its gay crowds, its pigs promenade on Broadway and its many paupers.

You can still find gaiety in abundance, from such seasonal fixtures as the Radio City Music Hall to the thriving cabarets and jazz clubs of Greenwich Village. But the briefest sortie into the streets can turn up tableaux straight from *Oliver Twist*. As in the 19th century, the wretched and ragged are on almost every corner

with begging cups in hand, often troubling the conveyances of the wealthy as they crawl through the traffic jams. The more entrepreneurial beggars use sales tools such as cassette players that play "Joy to the World" and other conscience-tugging jingles.

In another throwback to harder times, a tuberculosis epidemic appeared this season among the well-to-do, after apparently breeding among the thousands of vagrants who sleep in doorways, subway stations and in cardboard boxes. If you get to the office early enough you witness one of the city's more curious new rituals. Janitors at the sleekest skyscrapers start their day rousing the homeless from their boxes before bosing down the pavement. This season, some have been handing out doughnuts and coffee on their rounds.

Further out, charity workers have been trying to bring festive cheer to the so-called "mole

people". These are whole villages of down-and-outs who never surface from the disused railway tunnels of Manhattan. And if Dickens had strolled the seasonal streets of 1990, he would probably have wiped away a tear on hearing the strains of the Children of Homicide Victims Choir.

It is always difficult to distinguish reality from the myth in New York, given the city's theatrical sense of itself. Many paradoxes are at work. New York remains, for example, the only American metropolis with a living city soul. When crime and decay became too much in Detroit, Miami or Los Angeles, in the Sixties and Seventies, the middle classes moved to the suburbs. There has been some flight from the five boroughs of New York, but as Christmas approached a defiant spirit asserted itself. As in wartime, people in the media, entertainment and financial worlds have undertaken a campaign to raise morale.

According to the consensus behind all the cheer-leading, New York is far from mortally wounded. New York has been here before, many insist, and each time has managed to save itself, usually by assimilating a new flood of immigrants. In the past, the arrivals were Irish and Central and East Europeans. Now the city is absorbing its biggest influx of foreigners since before the first world war, most of them from India, Latin America and Asia. The mix, called a "gorgeous mosaic" by Mayor Dinkins, is often an explosive one, and it adds to the rough edges. There are times, for example, when it is hard to find a taxi driver or shop assistant who speaks any English. But as long as all these people are clamouring to come, say the optimists, all will be well.

Things have not really changed much since Dickens excused the town's raw side. "It must not be forgotten," he wrote in 1842, "that New York is a large town and that in all large towns a vast amount of good and evil is intermixed and jumbled up together."

Tomorrow  
Mary Delorsky reports on  
Christmas in Moscow.

## A woman without honour

Having missed out on Mrs Thatcher's resignation honours list, what odds on Shirley Williams, that earlier leading lady of British politics, appearing in the New Year list? It is generally accepted that former cabinet ministers such as Mrs Williams can have a life peerage almost on request. The former education secretary has recently allowed that she would not be wholly averse to "making a contribution in the Upper House". That, many believe, is about as strong a hint as a would-be peeress can decently give.

Mrs Thatcher dismissed out of hand any notion that she could propose someone such as Mrs Williams, who had made an appearance on the Greenwich picket line. In any case, the convention is that an ex-minister should be proposed by the leader of the party in whose cause he or she gave cabinet service. In Mrs Williams's case that means Neil Kinnock. But the Labour leader has laid down stern conditions for nomination of his former colleague, who left Labour in 1981 to found the SDP. They can be broadly summed up as "over my dead body".

That leaves Paddy Ashdown to plead her cause. But there are difficulties here, too. The Liberal Democrat leader complains constantly about the paltry number of nominations he is allowed and his

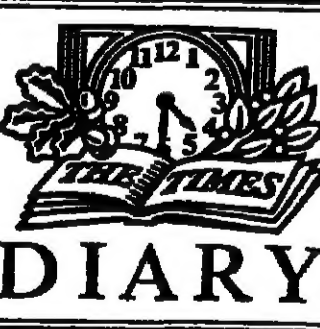
need for more working peers. Mrs Williams, who is now married to the Harvard political scientist, Richard Neustadt, has, despite her continued appearances on *Question Time* and *Any Questions?* at least half-emigrated. How can Ashdown press for the appointment to the legislature of someone normally resident for months on end in another country?

Friends say that Mrs Williams would be willing to spend more time here "if she was given good reason to". Whether such an argument has convinced, or whether she will be left ready for the ceremony but without a best man prepared to give her away, we shall soon see.

● The London Borough of Sutton is proud of its record on environmental matters and recently advertised for a "cycling officer" as "one of the many council green initiatives". There was no shortage of applicants, given the attractive inducements: a contributory leased car scheme and car loan facility.

## One of the phew

Peter Cushing will come out of retirement tomorrow to save a radio tribute to Lord Dowding, the Battle of Britain hero. Only days before Saturday's broadcast of the play *Human Conflict*, Radio Kent found itself short of two actors. Cushing, who lives in Kent, was approached to play a second world war pilot obsessed with restoring the reputation of Dowding, the commander-in-chief of Fighter Com-



mand. At the same time, Alan Dobie, veteran of 120 television dramas, agreed to take the part of Dowding, last portrayed by Olivier in the film *Battle of Britain*.

The broadcast will be Cushing's first role for some years, although it seems he took little persuading. "I looked forward to taking part in such a moving tribute to a much maligned man to whom so much is owed," he says.

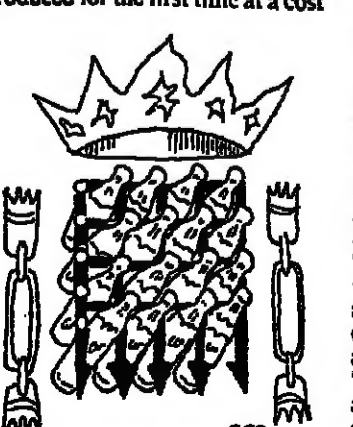
Michael Bath, the producer, says: "Both are working for virtually nothing. They are doing it out of respect for Dowding. The play portrays him as one of the great men of the 20th century, the man who won the Battle of Britain."

## Booth boom

While most High Street stores are pinning their hopes on the January sales making up for the disastrous Christmas, at least one retail outlet in London seems to have broken its sales record. The souvenir kiosk at the House of

Commons is still counting the takings after the Christmas spending spree, but last year's figure of an average of £20,000 a day certainly has been surpassed. Both John Major and Mrs Thatcher were among the customers this year, and extra staff were taken on to deal with the rush.

An estimated 24,000 bottles of whisky, each marked with the House of Commons porcupine, passed over the counter during the month. Christmas crackers, introduced for the first time at a cost



of £15 a box, were also bestsellers. Sir Charles Irving, chairman of the Commons catering committee, says: "We even had ministers queuing this year for presents. It was bedlam every day and I anticipate we have broken our own record. The recession in the High Street has still not caught up with the Palace of Westminster."

## Sabbath slippage

There will be spluttering over ecclesiastical breakfast tables this morning with the arrival of the latest *Catholic Herald*, which contains a trenchant leader headlined: "The case for Sunday trading." Of John Major's suggestion last week that the law should be reviewed, Peter Stanford, the editor, writes: "The debate must not be allowed to centre on the view of the Sabbath held by a vociferous minority who would prefer to turn the clock back to a pre-consumer age, now gone for ever."

Those who might be the target for the *Herald's* strictures responded yesterday more in sorrow than in anger. Ken Hargreaves, the Conservative MP and leading supporter of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, said: "It is bound to cause a rumpus. The 'vociferous minority' presumably includes the Catholic Church. I am astonished." Liberal Democrat member David Alton, another prominent Catholic, said: "If they're arguing there should be a free-for-all I would strongly disagree with them."

But the *Herald* has one compelling argument up its sleeve, for it seems that the church itself is not averse to earning an honest penny on the Sabbath. "The gift shop in Westminster Cathedral is open for business on Sundays," points out the *Herald*. "Can it be said that a shop inside a church is permissible, when to buy dried flowers in the streets outside is not?"





## HALF WAY TO WAR

The seven-week "pause of good will" granted to Iraq by the United Nations Security Council on November 30 is more than half spent. But there is as yet no sign of any decision by Saddam Hussein to pull out of Kuwait. The UN's goodwill gesture has been accompanied by President Bush's proposal of direct talks to convince Saddam of the certainty of war unless he withdraws unconditionally by January 15. So far, Saddam has treated both the pause and the offer contemptuously.

The release of foreign hostages, however, was politically significant only in the context of his game plan, which is to weaken public resolve in the West. He seems to expect that those who, in Mr Bush's words, are ready to "go the extra mile" for peace will go all the way to appeasement. He still insists that Kuwait is an integral part of Iraq. To show the Arab world that he can dictate to a superpower, he has rejected 15 proposed dates for the arrival of the American secretary of state, James Baker, in Baghdad.

But for all his prevarication Saddam above all needs to keep his military machine intact. The conclusion must be that he still hopes to break the international alliance and hang on to Kuwait without war. He is unlikely to be gambling on winning a war. His recent conference of ambassadors should have reinforced the voices from within his own ranks who warn that such a war would probably be lost, and with it Saddam's own position.

The West would be foolish to assume that its enemy is wholly stupid, or wholly lacking in opportunism. To be sure, Saddam must be made to understand three things: that he went a step far too far in invading Kuwait and must withdraw; that he has an American president who simply cannot march his troops back down this particular hill, having so laboriously marched them to its top; and that he cannot strut the Middle East stage having "tabled" the Palestine issue on the strength of his Kuwaiti invasion.

He must, in other words, be denied anything which gives him immediate profit from his adventure. But the basis on which he is induced to retreat can still be a matter for sensible debate. Hence the subterranean talks taking place among American, Arab

and Russian intermediaries. Hence the importance of distinguishing a negotiated retreat, which does not surrender the essence of the conflict, from a retreat made only after the spilling of much blood.

A future for the Palestinians, however desirable in itself, cannot be negotiable within the context of the Kuwaiti invasion. Saddam has no seat at that table. The world was not waiting to be persuaded by him that the Palestinian Israeli confrontation must be settled and he has nothing to add to the prospects for an agreed peace there. In the Gulf itself, however, he can be told what the result would be if he did withdraw completely from Kuwait for instance that his old dispute with Kuwait concerning oil wells, islands and borders was still for negotiation between himself, a restored Kuwaiti government and perhaps other Arab neighbours.

The UN and with it the structure of international law exists not to leave threats to peace unresolved and festering, but to find solutions by peaceful means. A restored Kuwaiti government would have to accept whatever solutions might be reached by these international dispute procedures. These might include long-term leases for Gulf islands and arbitration by the International Court on wells and borders, a notoriously complex issue in the Middle East where oilfields often cross borders. The solutions might also include arbitration on Kuwaiti claims for reparations for Iraqi damage, and even longer term negotiations on security and arms deployment, by the West, the Arab allies and Iraq itself. Iraq has proved itself a threat to peace in the entire region; the threat will not be removed until Saddam's ambitions have been tamed.

There is plenty here into which diplomacy can still sink its teeth if, as is likely, Saddam becomes more aware of the military risks in the new year. None of this represents any weakening on the fundamental point of principle. The message Saddam has to hear is that there is an alternative to war — an alternative constructive both for Iraq and for the region. But this requires him to accept the immediate restoration of Kuwait as an independent state. Only the certainty of war if he refuses can bring home to him the need for peaceful alternatives.

## SHOPKEEPERS' RECESSION

As Boxing Day follows Christmas, so the January sales follow Boxing Day. A sure sign of the state of the economy is the distance that these sales intrude upon December. A round-up of 80 major stores and chains shows that nearly two-thirds began their so-called new year sales well before the end of December. The Chancellor need look no further for his recession.

Equally strange is the spectacle of customers buying goods before Christmas which are then slashed in price only two days after full-price presents have been exchanged. Clearly, the economic principles of the free market clash with the unbreakable custom of giving in the appropriate season, regardless of cost.

This year's winter sales also see the disappearance of another piece of tradition. From Monday, the old 5p coin ceases to be legal tender, replaced by the smaller new 5p piece. With the passing of the original coin goes the last vestiges of the old shilling.

Some traditions die harder. Harrods commendably refuses to start its sale, the Ascot of January bargain-hunters, until a week today. But not many stores in our high streets can rely on being kept warm by the disposable income from the well-heeled customers and tourists who are still attracted to Britain's flagship retailer. For most, Christmas has been a hard, dry season in

which the cold wind of recession has sometimes been the only thing stirring. Hard-pressed shopkeepers have found the recession is biting, and biting deep.

Many retailers are still reeling from the impact of the commercial poll tax, the uniform business rate. Since a high proportion of annual retail sales are in the period immediately before Christmas, a poor season now will contribute to what is likely to be a considerable crop of retail failures in the new year.

The government believes that these difficulties are the medicine, albeit bitter, that Britain needs to swallow if inflation is to be reduced. John Major earlier this year summed up the government's counter-inflationary policy by insisting that if "it wasn't hurting, it wasn't working."

Britain's high street shops are hurting now, and the rash of early sales an entirely understandable attempt on their part to alleviate the anguish. Their cries should not be left unheeded. The high interest rates which are hurting them are not the only policy option open to the government. Britain entered the exchange-rate mechanism at too high a level. The government should be taking action to put that mistake right, enabling it to begin to relax interest rates. That would help Britain's beleaguered high streets and help to restore the economy.

## CHAMPIONING CHESS

When his fifth match against Anatoly Karpov ends next week, the world chess championship will belong to Gary Kasparov for another three years. Karpov was forced to concede a draw (the 16th) in the 22nd game, so permitting his opponent to retain his title with two games to spare. Though Karpov had some bad luck, Kasparov was clearly the stronger player. But the time has now come for some movement in the rules by which these competitions are conducted.

Until a new challenger emerges in 1993 the champion, who will share a \$3 million purse with Karpov, has no obligations. He may devote himself to Soviet politics or to business. He may risk meeting younger rivals in tournaments. If he chooses he may, like Bobby Fischer, never play again.

Such freedom is a reminder of the days when the championship was the personal property of the champion, who defended it against opponents of his own choosing. Steinitz, who invented the title a century ago, owned it until Lasker defeated him. So did their successors down to Alekhine, after whose death in 1946 the title briefly lapsed.

Only then did Fide, the world chess federation, collectivise the title and devise its own rules. All the subsequent champions and challengers until 1972 were Soviet, and they dared not dispute the rules. Nor did commercial sponsors, since all championship matches were played in Moscow, where spectators and the media obeyed.

Bobby Fischer during his brief reign revived interest in chess in the West, improving prizes and conditions for his peers as he did so. In 1975 he forfeited the title to his Soviet challenger, Karpov, rather than defend it under Fide's rules. But the Kasparov era dawned in 1984-5. The new champion set about curbing Fide down to size by leading a breakaway group of top professionals, the grandmasters' association.

So dependent is Fide on these two dominant masters that the two can, in effect, veto changes in the rules for title matches.

Yet chess at the highest level must be made more interesting for spectators and rewarding for sponsors. The New York series failed to attract the big American television networks. The system of time-outs, whereby each player can postpone up to three games for a few days at short notice, plays havoc with broadcasting schedules and is frustrating for spectators. Intended to allow for sickness, time-outs are routinely taken to recover from a severe defeat. If the length of a 24-game match demands such rests, they should be scheduled ones.

The most serious defect of the present rules, however, is the 40-move session. Many games in this match did not diverge from their established "book" openings until somewhere between the 15th and the 20th moves. Often the game is adjourned after 40 moves, after which the continuation is analysed exhaustively with the help of the players' "seconds", who are chess masters themselves, and even computers. When the game is resumed a day later, its result is often a foregone conclusion. Yet the great majority of games could be finished in the 60-move sessions which are now customary in tournament chess and in qualifying matches for the championship. Fewer adjournments should mean more creative chess and more decisive games.

As his games in New York and especially in Lyons have proved, Kasparov is a true master of the game. But his reassertion of the champion's prerogative ought not to detract from the quality of matches for the world title. No other game allows its champion such infrequent defences of his title. The public is entitled to expect world championship matches to be more entertaining.

## Getting rid of Saddam the priority

From General Sir John Hackett

Sir, Public debate on the crisis in the Middle East, unhappily disguised by not a little scaterbrained ranting, has never taken enough account of the central problem, which is the position, power and purpose of Saddam Hussein himself.

His clear aim is overthrow of the Arab world, based on the obliteration of Israel, strengthened by a stranglehold on 40 per cent of the industrial world's oil resources. Israel has long had nuclear weapons and will not hesitate to use them if driven to it. Saddam Hussein has for some time had nuclear weapons in preparation, and those of us who have given warning of this danger have been dismayed to learn how close it is.

The outbreak of nuclear warfare in the Middle East could only cause unthinkable and widely-spread calamity. It can hardly fail to happen if Saddam Hussein is left in power. He must therefore, in the interests of world peace, and even perhaps of human survival, be got rid of, but how?

Only his own people can pull him down. To suppose that sanctions can destroy him, or even thwart his purpose, is infantile. Iraq, at present enjoying the fruits of an unusually good harvest, can feed itself indefinitely and the shortages imposed by

embargo would never be critical within the predictable lifetime of the coalition.

What then can bring him down? Only his army. He has purged it ruthlessly at all levels and removed, and even executed, officers in great numbers. For the present he can rely upon it. Would he still be able to after a major military setback?

The Iraqi army could easily turn on Saddam Hussein if made to see the abyss into which he would be leading them in full-scale warfare against the West. The longer this is delayed the better President Saddam's hope of showing greater endurance than that of the coalition now arrayed against him. If his army turns against him and destroys him the probability of a successor with sufficient hardihood to try again along the same lines will be remote.

Only when he is gone, which must be soon, will present talk of political solutions, conferences, diplomacy, compromise, negotiations — all idle and even dangerous chatter today — have any real meaning. We may then, in a more stable world, even get round to having another look at UN Resolution 242 on the occupation of Arab territory by Israel.

Yours faithfully,  
J. W. HACKETT,  
Coleridge Mill,  
Nr Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

## Time running out to rescue Kuwait

From Commander C. F. B. Hamilton, RN

Sir, As a Christian society we must all dread the use of force to dislodge Saddam Hussein and to negate his ability to threaten his neighbours. Arab or Jew, with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The recent call by our two archbishops is both admirable and timely. Clearly all attempts to solve this crisis must be and are being exhausted.

Nevertheless, in extremis the Christian ethic must condone and support the use of force in pursuit of moral right, as it did in two world wars. What we must all appreciate fully is that the time for these attempts is running out.

Having suffered the awfulness of August and September in the Middle East our servicemen and their allies are presently enjoying beautiful weather, but in three months will again start to suffer severe hardships.

In the climate of April and beyond military life becomes tedious. Engines overheat, radios and computer-driven equipments fail, sin-

craft and ships suffer increasing failure rates and humans cannot compete with the climate for more than a few hours at a time. In particular, the ever-present requirement to wear chemical and biological protection will very severely exacerbate the problems of desert warfare.

Not all our servicemen and women live in the luxury of five-star accommodation in Riyadh, Bahrain and Muscat. The vast majority live in or near their vehicles, tanks, aircraft or ships.

If the Allied effort to counter this menace is forced into military action by Saddam Hussein's intransigence, it must complete its task before the summer and it must have the support of all our parties, our people and the churches. Is there any difference between a dictator invading British lands and those of the Kuwaitis?

Yours truly,  
C. F. B. HAMILTON,  
BFPO 647,  
December 22.

## Businesslike speech

From Mr Robin Kempster

Sir, There seems to be an urgent need for someone to compile a new dictionary of "business speak".

If I "diarise" my appointments properly I can go to meetings where my views no longer influence decisions, the "minutes" then or "impact" upon them. If I want to raise an issue for a future meeting, I have to "flag it up". I cannot go back to an earlier agenda item; I must "re-visit" it.

Loss-making components of a business have become "negative contributions" to the balance sheet, and over-spends on budget form "unfavourable variances" in the monthly accounts. Businesses cannot be allowed to expand — one has to "grow the organisation". I can no longer discuss such matters with my personnel officer because he may be away somewhere doing "human resources management".

What about a plastic cup of British Rail tea for the homeward journey? The buffet-car steward has now turned into my "on-board purser".

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN KEMPSTER,  
1 Vine Court, Clifton,  
Bridgwater, West Yorkshire,  
December 24.

## TV translations

From Mr Brian P. Swift

Sir, Television news and current affairs programmes include, increasingly so, interviews with foreign politicians and others where the interviewee speaks in his own language, only to be faded out after a few words with a voice-over translation in English.

I find this annoying. Why cannot the media leave the original and subtitle a translation? My schoolboy French and German are yearning for opportunities to be of use and, as we all know, it is not necessarily what you say, but the way that you say it.

Yours truly,  
B. P. SWIFT,  
Oak Meadows, St Leonard's Hill,  
Windsor, Berkshire.

## British shipping

From Mr John Newman

Sir, David Lipsey's article ("Save our ships — at a price", December 19) to portray British shipping as a sunset industry, unworthy of the "time" fiscal help he predicts in Norman Lamont's first Budget, is both unfair and untrue.

Why should it matter, he asks, whether the 95 per cent (by quantity) of British trade carried by ships goes on foreign or British vessels? One very good reason, at a time when the British balance of payments figures face increasing pressure, is the fact that British shipping is the third largest earner of "invisibles", with a contribution last year of more than £4 billion — out-ranked by only insurance and tourism.

It also matters because our fleet, according to international marine

insurance records, remains one of the safest in the world. Placing increasing amounts of potentially devastating cargoes like oil and chemicals in frequently sub-standard foreign competition is a form of environmental Russian roulette.

If we allow our national fleet to disappear, we also risk losing the related marine service industries such as shipbroking, insurance and classification which, thanks to London's present leading role in such fields, contribute a further £1 billion to the balance of payments.

The fact that two-thirds of world shipping receives substantial state support suggests that other nations know the long-term value of short-

term aid. Neither the British ship-owners nor the seafaring unions are asking for subsidy. We simply believe there is a solid case for a flexible fiscal regime to give our fleet some sort of chance to compete in the world.

Nothing has changed to diminish the sea's present or future influence upon our nation's prosperity and well-being and our shipping industry remains, in the words of a recent government report, "a vital national asset".

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN NEWMAN  
(General Secretary),  
The National Union of Marine  
Aviation and Shipping  
Transport Officers,  
Oceanair House,  
750-760 High Road,  
Leytonstone, E11,  
December 20.

## In search of cure for homelessness

From Mr C. John Naylor

Sir, As your editorial (December 19) rightly points out, "homelessness has many social, economic and even psychological causes".

This is why, welcome as the newly-announced government initiative on homelessness must be (report, December 19), it is essential that some of the underlying causes are also tackled. Certainly, as you stated, not all the causes can be laid at the government's door, but one certainly can.

Homelessness and unemployment are almost invariably intertwined and the recent reduction in expenditure on training has, without question, contributed to this situation.

The government is clearly right to seek value for money and to give priority to employer-based schemes. But young people with special needs — including those who have been in trouble with the law, have little education or who are disabled — cost more to train and will seldom be taken on by private-sector companies on government-funded schemes. It is these young people who, without training and support, are most at risk of becoming homeless.

This is why the voluntary sector has concentrated on providing training for these young people — those who no one else will help.

Few can disagree with the need, yet government policy is forcing the voluntary sector to cut back or stop its work in this area. The YMCA, for example, which has helped train more than 20,000 disadvantaged young people, has been forced to close three centres with the loss of 60 skilled staff and a direct cost to the charity of £200,000.

Let us also acknowledge that reductions in training budgets must be restored if one of the main causes of the tragedy of homelessness is to be addressed.

Yours sincerely,  
C. JOHN NAYLOR  
(National Secretary),  
National Council of YMCAs,  
640 Forest Road, E17,  
December 20.

From Mr Robin Jenks

Sir, The bishops are right (report, December 12) to urge the government to do something about homelessness. But they are mistaken if they think that cheap rented accommodation can be made available quickly. A combination of mortgage interest relief, the green

belt and high interest rates has made this impractical.

Yet the government could do something at once to house the homeless. Various of its agencies own a huge number of well maintained but empty buildings where the people with nowhere to live could be housed. The Ministry of Defence and the health authorities are two that immediately spring to mind. The South London Hospital, empty for six years, could accommodate most of London's homeless.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN JENKS,  
26 Alderbrook Road, SW12.

From Mr Gordon M. L. Smith

Sir, I must protest at the unfairness of the Catholic bishops' attack on the government over the homeless in London. More than 100,000 young people nationally are accommodated free with bed and breakfast every night, but there will always be some in cardboard boxes for the TV cameras at Waterloo.

The main cause is the great increase in divorce, and the break-up of families, where two or more homes are needed instead of one. Political propaganda has misled thousands of young people to leave their homes in the north and pour into London, hoping for immediate highly paid jobs. The problem cannot be solved simply by legislation.

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON M. L. SMITH,  
9 Greenfield Way,  
Storrington,  
West Sussex,  
December 14.

From Mrs Mariota Fuller

Sir, A large percentage of the homeless would not have become homeless in a previous generation. By and large, children stayed in the parental home until such time as they were employed and accommodated elsewhere, or got married. Teenagers did not expect independent shelter as of right, despite the fact that housing, in general, of a far lower standard and conditions in large families cramped to a degree.

I wish the church would address itself to some of the moral issues involved and be less political in its thinking. That can safely be left to the politicians.

Yours faithfully,  
MARIOTA FULLER,  
Becky's Orchard, Hyde,  
Nr Fordingbridge,  
Hampshire.

## Conservative gurus

From Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, It is hard to see how Michael Oakeshott might merit your lead-writer's designation (December 21) as a "pragmatic Thatcherite". If "Thatcherism" needs a reputable intellectual guru, it has one in Hayek (who wrote to you, however, to repudiate the allegation).

Mrs Thatcher only too clearly — indeed explicitly — rejected Oakeshott's view of society as a "civil association held together by the rule of law and by the habits, traditions and loyalties inherited from the nation's past" (to use your obituarist's neat, and accurate, summary).

Yours etc.,  
ELIZABETH YOUNG,  
100 Bayswater Road, W2,  
December 23.

## Food for thought

From Mrs Diana May

Sir, A name for informal luncheon (Mr de Witton, December 21)? "Brunch" "drinks and nibbles"? "Yesterday" I responded to an invitation to a "light lunch" in a private house to find the excellent food — we grazed on the buffet as we talked — was served by a butler and three uniformed maids.

Yours,  
DIANA MAY,  
265 Swaleys Road,  
Ickenham, Middlesex,  
December 21.

From Mrs S. M. Porter

Sir, I have found an American phrase, "heavy hors d'oeuvres", covers the occasion. Yours faithfully,  
SANDRA M. PORTER,  
65 Anacostia Green,  
Hendon on Thames,  
Oxfordshire.

From Mr John Macdonnell

Sir, In the old days Mr de Witton could have invited his friends to "tiffin", a word well known to old India hands and defined in the Shorter OED as "a light midday meal".

Yours etc.,  
JOHN MACDONNELL,  
10 North Road,  
Hythe, Kent.

From Mr Kenneth Bird  
Sir, I recently gave a Sunday lunch-time party. My guests were invited to "drinks and mega small chow" and none was disappointed.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH BIRD,  
4 Cowdrey Road,  
Wimbledon, SW19.

From Mrs Sandra Lewin

Sir, If Mr de Witton would allow me the opportunity to sample one of his occasional Sunday delights, I am sure I would be able to find the best way to word his invitations.

Yours faithfully,  
SANDRA LEWIN,  
Blue Cedars,  
Bourne End Road,  
Northwood, Middlesex.











# Winners, losers and unfinished contests

A turbulent 1990 is reviewed by George Hill  
with (below) Sara Driver's diary of the year

A funny old world it is. Do you remember how, a year ago, the clenched fists of a political ice-age were breaking up on all sides? It was the most exhilarating moment to be alive, politically, since 1945 at least. Reform seemed to be spreading like a pandemic - communicating itself irresistibly from hemisphere to hemisphere. Steady nerve had faced out the threat of tyranny, and those whose nerves had been strong stood vindicated. There was even chatter about the end of history.

Reports of its death were exaggerated. It has run on as if it had a will of its own, baffling even those who could have supposed themselves most in command of events. The world's leaders a year ago never anticipated how suddenly the two Germanies would spring together, nor how far the Soviet Union would go towards flying apart. A year ago, the White House had practically learnt to live with the Sandinistas. The trading nations had practically learnt that tariff wars hurt everybody. Nelson Mandela was a prisoner on the point of release, the saviour who would prevent his country from falling into a three-sided civil war. Mrs Thatcher was unassailable, and Sir Geoffrey Howe had been kicked upstairs. A year ago, Kuwait was a little dry Switzerland. Change is instability. Hopeful change makes space that horrors may rush into. While Brezhnev snored in the Kremlin, the old machine creaked on. Once people dared to think, old hatreds and new greed, as well as ideals, were at hand for them to think about.

Yet in the year's many elections in the east, millions with no experience of voting power felt their way towards firm ground, perhaps with a surer instinct than any politician could have imposed. But Yugoslavia began to revert to Balkanism. Familiar faces reappeared in control in Romania, once last year's Christmas gunfire died down. The horror of what was found in its hospitals and orphanages almost outweighed joy at the fall of Ceausescu.

Wavering between the incompatible aims of restoring freedom and saving the union, Mr Gorbachev seemed to have lost the confidence even of his closest lieutenant, Eduard Shevardnadze. The possibilities of famine and mass flows of refugees from the east make western Europe's prosperity seem almost as fragile as it did under the shadow of the bomb.

The new age had a short honeymoon. In August, Saddam Hussein said that the great powers were taking a holiday from geopolitics, and took advantage of their inattention. He may not have foreseen the unprecedented unanimity of the

world's response, but he may have been accurate in his contemptuous assumption that it was bluster, from which compromise could be wrung. Meanwhile, he ruthlessly broke the resistance of the Kuwaitis and used his hostages as pawns with cold resourcefulness, enticing a procession of hopeful peacemakers to shatter themselves in Baghdad.

In his opportunism, Saddam offered a glimpse of one possible pattern for the post cold war era - hard men snatching limited chances, with an alliance of soft superpowers content merely to contain them. Three times this century, the world has faced a problem of containment, and got it wrong twice. But was this another 1939, a 1945, or a 1914?

The western leader who most forcefully articulated the dangers of softness was Margaret Thatcher. George Bush does not have the timbre of voice to shake America easily out of the isolationism it always hankers for, especially since Vietnam.

Saddam's aggression and Mrs Thatcher's overthrow were alike in being virtually unforeseen until the moment they happened. Yet in hindsight, political life in Britain throughout 1990 appears shot through with premonitions of the doom of Thatcherism. A party which has made economic management its stock in trade inevitably finds recession hard to explain away. Each ministerial resignation weakened the impression of infallibility. But the trouble went deeper. The prime minister was at

**President Saddam ensured that the new age had a short honeymoon**

odds with the instincts of most of her MPs on two great issues: Europe and the poll tax. A host of small issues, including education vouchers, the football ID card scheme, AIDS compensation for haemophiliacs, and the war crimes bill, helped to create the impression of an indomitable will-power flailing in a vacuum, increasingly out of touch with the mood of colleagues and voters, and with the art of the possible.

Labour forged ahead in the opinion polls. Numb resignation reigned among Tory MPs. Yet Mrs Thatcher's dominance was such that it was scarcely possible to imagine her no longer in charge. Probably only one man could have broken the spell. After the savaging from the dead sheep (more in sorrow than anger, and timed with precision), everything had changed.

The leadership election that followed was surely the most extraordinary instance of concerted political ingratiation, pragmatism and serendipity in Britain this century. Nobody could have planned or predicted the blind flow of instinct which led the party from Thatcher to Major, and to a healing of wounds which might have been crippling. In a redemp-



Over there for Queen and country: one of the first British soldiers in the Gulf, awaiting the uncertainties of the new year following Saddam's invasion of Kuwait

tive ritual reminiscent of the Golden Bough, the regime struck the fatal blow, and was himself struck down, so that the virgin knight might succeed.

Share prices rose at the news of her fall. The fickle public applauded (for the moment). On the day she accepted that she must step down, she gave a performance in the Commons that was an unsurpassable display of heart and resilience. Later, at the moment of her successor's triumph, she was present half-seen behind the upstairs curtains of Number 11, like an ancestral ghost leaning down from the heavens to give a silent blessing.

As power seeps from Whitehall to Brussels, it is hard to imagine that Westminster will ever see political theatre of quite the intensity we have witnessed since 1979. As for the virgin knight, or grey man: with one bound Jack was free, to smile at poor trade figures, discard policies without shame, and (most important) to retain policies while sounding completely different.

The year's other great piece of political theatre was the sight of Nelson Mandela walking down the road from prison, impressively upright, slim and self-

contained, and wearing an impressively well-tailored suit. Over the months that followed, he had to call on all his fortitude not to be borne down by the exposure and the compromises of being the one man indispensable to resolving South Africa's grief.

Nicaragua and Ireland were two more countries where the ballot-box confounded the pundits. Nicaragua's voters dismissed the Sandinistas almost at the moment of their success, while Ireland's rejected the familiar riddled faces of Irish politics to choose someone fresh as president. But in India neither voters nor politicians seemed able to reverse a slide into corruption and sectarian violence.

This was the year of Gaza's tears. In the World Cup, England rose from a morass of bungling to a place among four semi-finalists of almost equal merit. Watching England's match against the radiant underdogs of Cameroon, half the nation would have been shaky qualifiers in Norman Tebbit's test of national allegiance. Underdogs in sport had a good year: Scotland at Murrayfield, England in the West Indies, and above all, Buster Douglas in Tokyo (he gained his knockout, took his champion's

purse, and hastened off to enjoy it). Nick Faldo was no underdog, clinching his second Open. But Navratilova was, taking a record ninth Wimbledon title, for time makes every champion an underdog in the end.

Underdogs rose and top dogs fell, in sport, politics, and especially in business. There never was such a bonfire of the vanities among boardroom potentates: Trump, Saunders, Halpern, Bond, Mirman were among those whose fortunes reached their Nadir. In Strangeways and other grim prisons, the underdogs took charge, and did their best to demolish them.

The IRA continued to blaze away, sometimes hitting the people they meant to (one of whom, sadly, was Ian Gow). Many Londoners experienced a breath of anarchy when, after the Trafalgar Square poll tax riot, gangs broke windows, overturned cars and had the time of their lives.

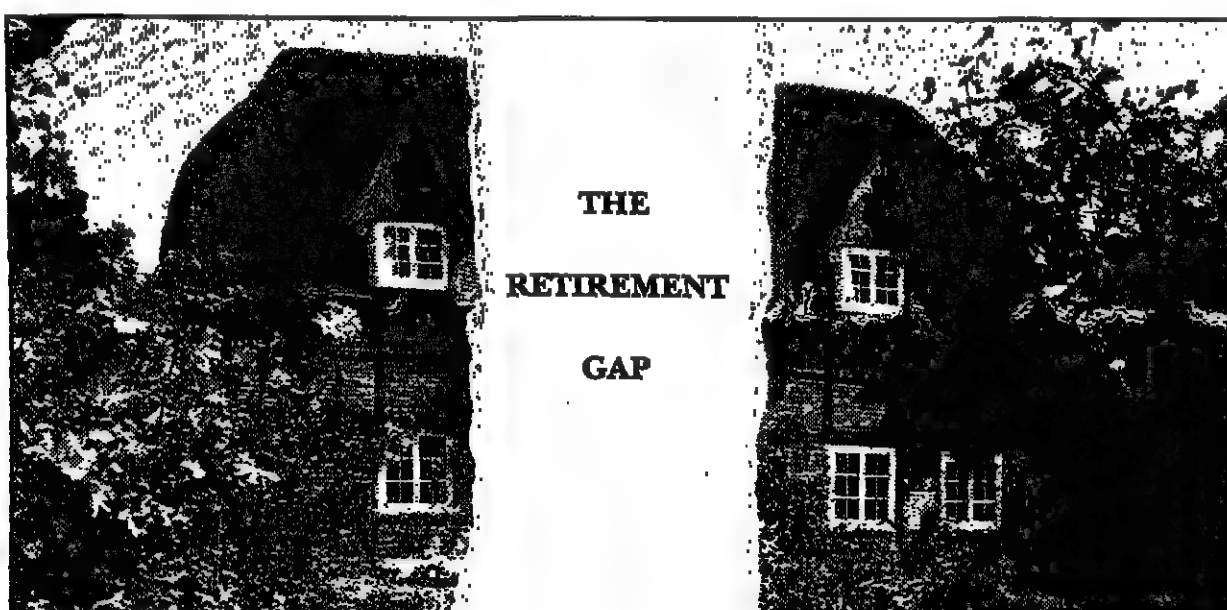
Brian Keenan was released from Beirut, and nobody who saw him will forget his infectious overflow of joy. But as the year ended, John McCarthy and

Terry Waite were still in captivity. So were the Birmingham Six.

As usual, it was the warmest year of the century, around the world and especially in Cheltenham, where the highest temperature ever recorded in Britain was reached, in the local Tory party headquarters after the naming of the new candidate. The greenhouse lobby were cock-a-hoop all summer: then came blizzards, and the ice-age faction counter-attacked.

A new terror was added to the sorrows of old age: that of being interviewed by the *Spectator*. And a new terror to childhood: that of being plied with beefburgers by the arch-carnivore John Gummer, to show his fearlessness in face of mad cow disease. The Queen Mother reached 90, the emperor of Japan communed with the earth goddess and the Scouts opened their ranks to girls.

Britain ceased to be an island, after 10,000 years in the role of precious stone set in a silver sea. The breakthrough in the Channel tunnel opens up for rail travellers the prospect of hurrying like the wind from every corner of Europe to stack up behind the 0932 stopping service from Ashford to Waterloo.



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Home, Jan 23: The Metropolitan Police became the first force to scrap height requirements. 28: The Independent on Sunday was launched.

Abroad, Jan 15: The Soviet government declared a state of emergency in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Arts and Entertainment, Jan 24: Richard Holmes's *Coleridge: Early Visions* was the Whitbread Book of the Year.

Business and Finance, Jan 3: The FT-SE 100 share index rose to a record 2,463.7.

Crime, Jan 18: Terry Marsh, the former world lightweight boxing champion, was charged with the attempted murder of Frank Warren, his former manager.

Politics, Jan 3: Norman Fowler, the employment secretary, resigned.

Sport, Jan 29: David Waddington, the home secretary, announced that the government would accept the recommendations in Lord Justice Taylor's report on Hillsborough and would shelve plans for compulsory ID cards for football supporters.

Weather, Jan 26: Winds of up to 110 mph swept across Britain, killing 47 people.

Bomb Who Died: Armed Forces: Lieut-Gen Sir Roger Bower, Air Commodore Richard Kellott, Air Vice-Marshal George Lott, Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Norris, Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Villiers, Group Capt F.W. Wilmshurst. Arts: Ian Charleson, Ava Gardner, Gordon Jackson, Semprini, Barbara Stanwyck, Terry-Thomas. Business and Industry: Lord McAlpine of Moffat, Sir Martin Widdison. Education: John Souham, Professor John Blacking, Law: Lord Gardner. Politics and Civil Service: Lord Pagar of Northampton, Sir Antony Part, Religion: Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. Science and Medicine: Sir Reginald Ralney, Sir Edward Pocock. Sport: Joseph Hardstaff, Mark Sugden.

Home, Feb 23: Union and health service negotiators reached settlement about pay increases for ambulance crews. Merseyside ambulance men voted for an all-out strike.

Abroad, Feb 1: Federal troops and tanks were deployed in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo following deaths in clashes between ethnic Albanians and the

Serbian authorities. 2: President F.W. De Klerk announced the 30-year ban on South Africa's communist party, the ANC, the PAC and other anti-apartheid organisations would be lifted. 7: The Soviet Central Committee voted to end the communist party's monopoly of power. Feb 18: More than 7,000 Romanian miners were drafted into Bucharest to counter anti-government demonstrations. 25: Violeta Chamorro became president of Nicaragua.

Business and Finance, Feb 9: Sack Shop revealed a pre-tax loss of £3.97 million. Shares in the company were later suspended and administrators brought in.

People, Feb 11: Nelson Mandela was released after more than 27 years in jail.

Politics, Mar 11: Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare independence from the Soviet Union. 14: Mikhail Gorbachev was elected to the new executive post of president. 18: In East Germany's first free elections, the Alliance for Germany won with 48 per cent of the vote.

People, Mar 25: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, announced he would retire in January 1991.

Politics, Mar 4: Peter Walker, the Welsh secretary, announced he would resign in May. 22: In the Mid Staffordshire by-election, Sylvia Heal overturned a Conservative majority to take the seat for Labour.

Royalty, Mar 23: The Duchess of York gave birth to her second daughter, Eugenie.

Sport, Mar 17: Scotland beat England to win the Rugby Union Grand Slam.

Weather, Mar 18: Temperatures of 22C, the hottest in March since 1965.

Arts, Mar 18: The Welsh secretary, announced he would resign in May. 22: In the Mid Staffordshire by-election, Sylvia Heal overturned a Conservative majority to take the seat for Labour.

Science, Medicine and Health, Feb 15: All bottles of Perrier water were withdrawn from sale after traces of benzene were discovered in supplies.

Sport, Feb 11: James "Buster" Douglas knocked out Mike Tyson, the previously unbeaten world heavyweight champion, in Tokyo. 13: It was announced that the unofficial England cricket tour of South Africa, led by Mike Gatting, would end two weeks early.

Weather, Feb 26: Eighteen people died as gales swept across Britain.

Home, Feb 23: Union and health service negotiators reached settlement about pay increases for ambulance crews. Merseyside ambulance men voted for an all-out strike.

Home, Mar 5: The NUM executive agreed to an independent enquiry into allegations that Libya had given funds to the union during the 1984-85 strike and that Arthur Scargill had used some of these funds to pay off his mortgage. 28: Three people were charged after an attempt to smuggle trigger devices for nuclear bombs on to an Iraqi airliner at Heathrow. 31: Police arrested 341 during a mass rally against the poll tax at Trafalgar Square.

Abroad, Mar 11: Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare independence from the Soviet Union. 14: Mikhail Gorbachev was elected to the new executive post of president. 18: In East Germany's first free elections, the Alliance for Germany won with 48 per cent of the vote.

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Abroad, Feb 1: Federal troops and tanks were deployed in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo following deaths in clashes between ethnic Albanians and the

prison in Manchester; prison officers stormed the jail 24 days later. 3: Chris Patten, the environment secretary, announced that 20 Labour councils would be charge-capped. 11: Customs officers in Middlesbrough impounded steel cylinders bound for Iraq. A week later Nicholas Ridley, as trade and industry secretary, told the Commons that the cylinders were parts for a 140-ton "large-calibre armament".

Abroad, Apr 18: The Soviet government cut off oil supplies to Lithuania. 22: The Greek authorities arrested Paul Ashwell after customs officials found that his lorry was carrying parts of the suspected Iraqi "supergun".

Arts and Entertainment, Apr 29: BSB was launched.

Crime, Apr 24: Charles Wilson, the Great Train Robber, was murdered at his home in Spain.

Politics, Apr 19: The Commons passed the British Nationality Bill, granting British citizenship to 50,000 key Hong Kong personnel.

Science, Medicine and Health, Apr 4: Dr Raymond Crockett was ordered to be struck from the medical register for his role in procuring kidneys for transplants.

Sport, Apr 7: Marcus Armytage won the Grand National on Mr Frisk. 8: Nick Faldo won the US Masters golf championship for the second year running. 28: Liverpool won the FA championship.

Weather, Apr 2: Britain was hit by its second biggest earthquake in 100 years, measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale. 25: As temperatures reached 23C in London, the first hosepipe ban of the season was imposed.

Died, Armed Forces: Brigadier Francis Dunbury. Admiral Sir Frank Hopkins. Arts: James Chipperfield, Erte, Greta Garbo, Paulette Goddard, Sarah Vaughan. Business and Industry: Duncan Stirling. Education: Dr

Home, Apr 1: Inmates seized control of Strangeways

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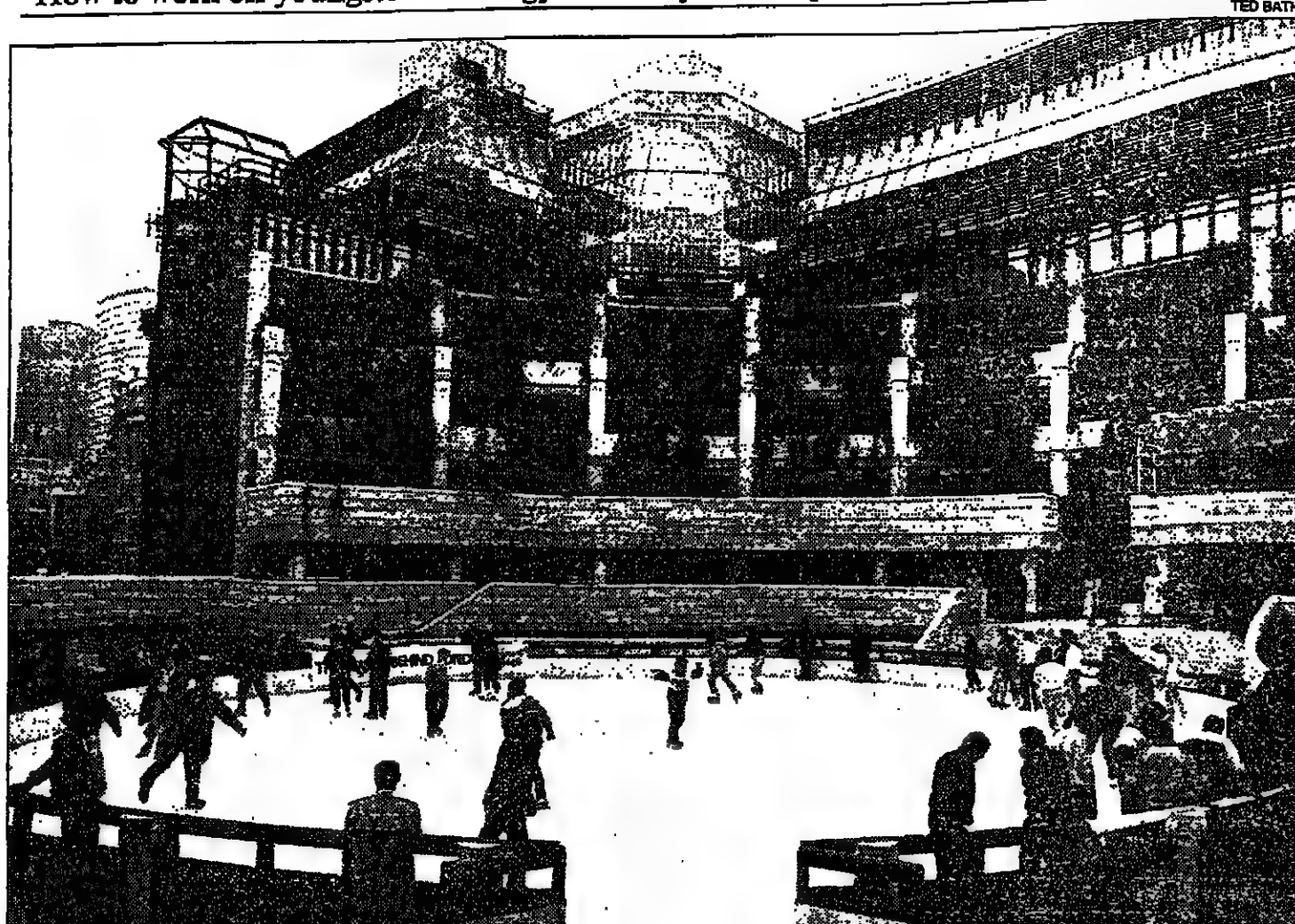






## Energetic events for children

How to work off youngsters' lethargy — mostly in the open air. Compiled by Lee Rodwell



Locomotion without fumes or traffic jams: the fourth season of open air ice-skating is under way at Broadgate, London EC1

## Walking, skating and swimming

THEY have ripped the wrapping from the presents, stuffed themselves with chocolates at the Christmas tree, exhausted the batteries in all the new toys, are goggle-eyed from watching too much television... and then they utter the words every parent dreads: "I'm bored. What can we do?"

One traditional answer is to suggest that they put on their hats and coats and set off for a brisk walk in the fresh air to counteract the effects of over-indulgence. A number of organised walks will be taking place over the post-Christmas period.

The Twelve Days of Christmas, for instance, is the theme of a series of walks being held in East Cumbria. All are taken at a gentle pace but for more details and information about those most suitable for children call 0228 61601.

Many children (my own among them) dislike the idea of walking for its own sake, and prefer to be given some specific reason for having to use their legs. The Treasure Trail at Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (0622 765400), on New Year's Day would be more their idea of fun. You can roll up from 11am onwards, but the last practical start time is probably about 2pm. The clues lead you around the estate and should take about an hour to solve. Adults £5.20, accompanied children free.

Since 1991 will be the Year of the Maze, you could suggest going out to find one. The most famous of all is probably the hedge maze at Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey (081-977 8441: closed New Year's Day). Entry to the maze alone costs £1 for adults, 75p for children.

Mazes date back at least 4,000 years and there are more than 100 in Britain today. Not all are hedge mazes: some are in turf, brick,

stone, wood and water. Indoor mazes may be made from marble, mosaic or stained glass.

The Ancient Turf Maze on the Common at Saffron Walden, Essex, has 17 rings of brick paths set in turf and measures 132ft (OS Ref TL 54385). For more details about mazes open to the public and those suitable for family outings over the holiday period, contact Adrian Fisher (0582 461880).

If your offspring really detest walking, consider some other form of exercise. Modern leisure pools are a far cry from the swimming baths of old. The emphasis is on fun and games, not on swimmers going up and down in regimented lanes. Most will be open after Boxing Day, although some may close early on New Year's Eve and remain closed on New Year's Day.

Fantastic Tropical Indoor Water Park at Dartford, for instance, will be open daily. Normal hours are from 10.30am with last tickets at 9pm, apart from New Year's Eve when it will close at 3pm. There are giant turbo flumes, jacuzzis, kiddie pools with animal slides and floats, a wave machine, a lazy river, an inflatable tyre ride and a restaurant and bar. Prices: £5.50 adults, £4.50 for 5-14 year olds, £3 for 3 and 4-year-olds. Under threes are free. Access is via Junction 1A off the M25 at Dartford.

Alternatively, ice-skating might feel like a more seasonal activity. If you live within reach of London's Liverpool Street station you can even recreate the atmosphere of Victorian winters by taking the family skating in the open air.

Broadgate Ice Rink at 3, Broadgate, London EC1 (see photograph, above) claims to be the country's only open-air rink and is open for two sessions daily. Session times are from 11am to 2pm and from 3pm to 6pm. Admission: £3 adults, £1.50 children. Skates are available for hire: £1.50 adults, 75p children (071 588 6565).

## Railways

CHILDREN hooked on Thomas the Tank Engine would no doubt appreciate a ride on one of the many steam train specials running during the holidays.

Mince Pie Specials will be running from the Midland Railway Centre, Butterley Station, Ripley, Derbyshire today, tomorrow, December 30 and 31, with a free mince pie for all (0773 747674).

The Fat Controller pops up with presents for children at Embay Station for the New Year's Family and the Happy Tank Engines on the Embay Steam Railway near Skipton, North Yorkshire (0756 794727). There are more Mince Pie Specials on December 30, 31 and January 1 at the Nene Valley Railway, Vansford Station, which is on the southbound side of the A1 near Peterborough, Cambs (0780 782854).

As for those who have had enough of Christmas fare, how about a little Hot Dog Steaming on New Year's Day at the East Anglian Railway Museum at Chappel and Wakes Colne Station, Colchester, Essex. Free hot dogs for all hungry passengers (0206 242524).

## Animal magic

Animals always appeal to younger children and the winter months are often a good time to visit zoos and wildlife parks simply because they are less crowded. Some places offer reduced admission during winter.

Capel Manor Environmental Centre, at Theobalds Park, off Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield, Middlesex, is holding a Winter Wonder Day tomorrow for children aged between 5 and 14 and their parents. There will be tracks and trails to follow, a chance to create some nature art and to listen to some festive poems. There are two sessions — from 10am to noon and from 2pm to 4pm.

Children £1 a session, adults free (0992 763849).

Most zoos, including London Zoo and Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, have been open since Christmas, but it is as well to phone before you set out. Although Windsor Safari Park is now open from 10am it is worth knowing that last admission is 2.30pm: while the toboggan ride will be open (unless it is wet), the larger mechanical rides are closed for maintenance. However, there are reduced winter rates of £5.95 for adults and £4.95 for children (0753 869841).

Those who are fed up with providing meals for the family and are within reach of Driffield Zoo Park at Ailfriston, East Sussex, might consider heading there for the special family Sunday lunches when there will be entertainers to keep the children amused in the Toucan Restaurant from noon onwards. This small zoo is open from 10.30am to 4pm. Reduced admission, adults £5.75, children £2.50.

On the other hand, if you want to forget the winter chills altogether, butterflies could be the answer. The Edwardian Palm House near the Ashton Memorial in Lancaster's Williamson's Park has been restored and is now home to 24 varieties of rare and exotic species which fly freely about your feet and very still. Admission £1.30 for adults, 75p for children. Closed New Year's Day.

There are butterflies too at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, Oxfordshire, as well as a reptile house, fruit bats, and a tropical house. The walk-round park is set in 180 acres of gardens and woodlands and is now open from 10am to dusk. Prices: £3.50 adults, £1.95 children four and over.

Boxing Day's Times, page 16, listed theatrical events intended for children. Yesterday's page 16 suggested exhibitions, museums and other indoor events.

## NEW RELEASES

**ALMOST AN ANGEL** (PG). Cocoonie Dundee star Paul Hogan as a professional thief who believes he has returned from the dead to do good deeds. Fable discussion into supernatural whoddy; director John Cornall, with Linda Kozlowski. Camerons: Baker Street (071-635 9772) Fulham Road (071-353 0303) Oxford Street (071-635 0303).

**FANTASIA** (U). Disney's famous visualisation of popular concert classics: scooters between the churning, the clever, and the delectably out. With Mickey Mouse as the Sorcerer's Apprentice, music played by Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Screen on the Green (071-255 5232).

**THE MAHABHARATA** (U). Three-hour version of the Hindu epic which tells the story of the Mahabharata war. Visually rich, though the musical gradually compels attention. Baraban (071-636 8881).

## CURRENT

**AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE** (15). Jane Cameron's excellent film about the New Zealand artist J.M.W. Turner. Farnham (071-457 9402).

**BLUE STEEL** (18). Tough, blood-spattered police thriller with a feminist slant from director Kathryn Bigelow. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**COME SEE THE PARADISE** (15). Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American treatment of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor, handsomely mounted. Ocean Haymarket (071-638 7897).

**THE COMPANY OF STRANGERS** (18). Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson in a touching story of a young man who goes to the aid of Christopher Walken. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**FLATLINERS** (15). Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between death and life. Director: Joel Schumacher. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111) Screen on the Green (071-255 5232).

## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (P) on release across the country. Note: Please check with cinemas for changes in opening times during the Christmas week.

**THE FRESHMAN** (PG). Quirky, uneven spoof of The Godfather, with Martin Brando as the godfather who has a New York film student (Matthew Broderick) as a delivery boy. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**GHOST** (12). Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller. Soane, Inverness, but absorbing while it lasts. Camerons: Baker Street (071-635 9772) Fulham Road (071-353 0303) Oxford Street (071-635 0303).

**GOODFELLAS** (18). Martin Scorsese's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. With Robert De Niro. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**HENRY AND JUNE** (18). Anne Heche's passionate affair with Henry Miller in bohemian Paris recreated with a grandiose flair by director Philip Kaufman. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**HONE ALONE** (PG). Ricky Gervais left alone at Christmas words of a budding comedian. Broad, machine-tooled American family fun from writer-producer John Hughes. A (15) L5. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**THE HOT SPOT** (18). Flaming sexual innuendo and a sexy Texas town, delicately evoked by director Dennis Hooper. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**THE HOT SPOT** (18). Flaming sexual innuendo and a sexy Texas town, delicately evoked by director Dennis Hooper. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London. Note: There may be slight changes to performance times during the Christmas week.

**OUT OF ORDER**. David Shiner plays, 2.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm. Running time: 2.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm. (Open Jan 1).

**THE BOYS NEXT DOOR**. Tom Gutteridge plays, 2.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm. Running time: 2.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm. (Open Jan 1).

**THE PRIVATE LIFE**. Keith Barker, John Gielgud and Sara Crompton in a comedy. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 8404). Undergound: Covent Garden, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 3pm. Running time: 2.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm. (Open Jan 1).

**THE REHEARSAL**. Ian McEwan's a stylish production (costumes by Jasper Carrott). Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**RUSS ABBOY'S MADHOUSE**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE**. Alan Howard and Penny Downie in a comedy. Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 8404). Undergound: Covent Garden, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun, 3pm. Running time: 2.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.30pm. (Open Jan 1).

**THE SHAPE OF THE TABLE**. David Edgar's a comedy. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**THE NUTCRACKER**. One of two performances in London tonight (the other is at the Festival Hall) features the Russian Ballet. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**THE RED BALLOON**. Highly praised production by Anthony Marston. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**SECRETLY UNLIMINATIONS**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**ARNOLD BROWN**. The success of Radio 4's comedy series. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

## TODAY'S EVENTS

Southampton County Museum, Taiton Castle (023 255504), 10am-5pm.

**EGON SCHIELE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES**. In the past 30 years painting has been one of the most important and successful in the history of art. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**BLOOD BROTHERS**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**THE FORBIDDEN PLANET**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**SHIRLEY VALENTINE**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

**THE REHEARSAL**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

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**ARNOLD BROWN**. Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 18

## DANARIS

(a) A woman of Athens converted by Paul, Acts 17:34. "Howbeit certain men clave unto her and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Danarise, and others with her."

## JETHRO

(b) Midianite priest and father-in-law of Moses, sometimes called Reuel or Raguel. Moses married Zipporah, she bore him a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.

## BARTHOLOMEW

(a) One of the twelve apostles, called in John's gospel Nathanael. He suffered the most tribulational fate of all the apostles if, as is later related, he was flayed alive in Armenia. Portrayed carrying his own skin.

## DRUSILLA

(c) Daughter of Herod Agrippa I, and wife of the procurator of Judea, Antonius Felix. "When Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ."

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

## ME AND MY GIRL

THE LITTLE WALK. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

## BLOOD BROTHERS

Musical. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

## THE FORBIDDEN PLANET

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## SHIRLEY VALENTINE

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## THE WOMAN IN BLACK

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## OPERA &amp; BALLET

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

## THEATRES

APOLLO VICTORIA. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

## MICHAEL HORDEN

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Street (071-536 5851) Mezzanine (071-530 6111).

## BOOKS

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## THEATRES

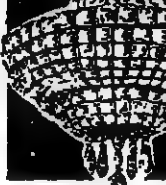
APOLLO VICTORIA. Camerons: Parkway (071-267 7034



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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-22  
● SPORT 24-28

# BUSINESS

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28 1990

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## Wall Street fire halts share deals all over US

A DANGEROUS chemical fire stopped share dealing throughout America for 90 minutes. A massive explosion in a transformer in the lower Manhattan financial district sent flames shooting eight stories high and showered fire fighters with polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs (writes Philip Robinson).

The building, which houses stockbrokers Shearson Lehman Hutton, Chemical Bank, other financial firms, and the key computer equipment which matches share deals at both American and New York stock exchanges, was shut off for several hours yesterday.

Environmental officials cordoned the area until it had been rendered PCB-free, effectively stopped trading. It resumed at 11 am New York time and officials reported no damage to the equipment. Other American markets stopped trading until New York reopened. page 20

## Icahn hints at bid retraction

TWA's Carl Icahn hinted he would not bid \$375 million for Pan American Corporation if it sold its Boston-New York-Washington commuter shuttle.

Pan Am has refused to comment on newspaper reports it is poised to sell the shuttle service for \$150 million to Northwest Airlines. Mr Icahn said yesterday he was not consulted about any possible sale and first learned of it from newspaper reports.

Mr Icahn told Thomas Plaskett, Pan Am chairman, in a letter that one of the conditions of the offer was there be "no material adverse change in Pan Am such as bankruptcy, a sale of assets for less than fair value, defaults in major borrowings or obligations, or other similar events".

## Levitt sale

The insurance broking business of Levitt Group (Holdings), the financial services company taken into administration on December 11, has been sold to its management for an undisclosed price, administrators KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock said. The company will revert to its former name of Chambers and Newman.

**THE POUND**

US dollar	1.858 (+0.0108)
German mark	2.8876 (+0.0001)
Exchange index	93.0 (+0.3)

**STOCK MARKET**

FT 30 Share	1867.8 (+8.9)
FT-SE 100	2167.8 (+11.5)
New York Dow Jones	2643.07 (+5.94)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	23940.70 (+53.14)

Closing Prices ... Page 21

**INTEREST RATES**

London Bank Base	14%
3-month interbank	14.125 up
3-month eligible bill	13.125-13.125
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	8%
3-month Treasury bill	8.46-8.45
30-year bond	10.5-10.5

**CURRENCIES**

London	New York
E: \$1.8580	E: \$1.8580
E: DM2.8876	E: DM2.8876
E: Sfr1.4681	E: Sfr1.4681
E: FF9.1607	E: FF9.1607
E: Yen257.50	E: Yen257.50
E: Index 93.0	E: Index 93.0
ECU 1.70783	ECU 1.70783
ECU 1.43080	ECU 1.43080

**GOLD**

London Fixing	AM \$383.75 pm \$382.80
close	\$382.00-\$383.00 (\$203.19-203.72)
New York	Comex \$382.75-383.25

**NORTH SEA OIL**

Brent (Jan)	27.20
Denotes latest trading price	

**TOURIST RATES**

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.35	2.35
Austria S	21.20	19.90
Belgium F	2.35	2.15
Canada C	1.31	1.15
Denmark Kr	11.80	10.85
Finland Mk	10.21	9.61
France F	16.35	15.35
Germany DM	3.21	3.01
Greece Dr	272.75	266.75
Hong Kong \$	15.20	14.40
Italy Lira	2075	2135
Japan Yen	272.75	266.75
Netherlands Gld	3.45	3.15
Norway Kr	11.80	11.10
Portugal Esc	200.48	192.48
Spain Ptas	166.36	156.36
Sweden Kr	11.81	11.05
Switzerland Fr	2.25	2.15
Turkey Lira	5000	5400
Yugoslavia Dnr	27.50	20.50

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)

## CBI underlines bleak struggle of holding down pay deals



Robinson: jobs warning

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

CLEAR signs that employers and the government will find considerable difficulty in pushing down the level of pay settlements are given in the latest figures on wage deals from the Confederation of British Industry.

When figures from the Pay Databank were published in October, the CBI claimed that the provisional estimate for pay settlements in manufacturing in the three months to September was the first evidence of deals starting to move down.

In today's Databank figures, however, the CBI has had to revise upwards estimates of settlement levels for the last quarter to October, and for the quarter before that. Though the revisions are only marginal, they indicate that pay pressure in the economy is

still running at a high level. Though today's CBI survey does not include any data on settlements in the final quarter of this year, CBI leaders admit privately that the figures are unlikely to show much of a decline when they are published in the new year.

The CBI had estimated that settlements in the third quarter were 8.5 per cent, down from 8.9 per cent the previous quarter. Independent pay analysts suggested that the CBI's figures were not in line with those produced by other pay monitoring bodies, and seemed too low.

CBI leaders acknowledged internally that their first provisional figure had been based on a relatively small number of settlements. Today's figures revise the quarterly total upwards to 8.6 per cent. The figure for the previous quarter is also increased to 9 per cent.

While this means the CBI is still charting a

fall in settlements, ministers' enthusiasm for what the CBI figures are showing will be tempered by the fact that the revisions are, for them, going the wrong way.

That feeling will be increased by the CBI's provisional figures in the same report that show an actual increase in pay settlements in the service sector. Pay deals in private sector service companies, in such areas as catering, financial services, leisure, transport and retailing, were running at 9 per cent in the second half. This is higher than the 8.9 per cent for the first half, though the CBI points out that this is lower than the figure for a year before of 9.2 per cent.

Commenting on its latest figures, the CBI notes that manufacturers' estimates on productivity growth are now at 4.5 per cent, down to the lowest figure since it started

collecting this information three years ago.

The CBI says that to maintain an internationally competitive position, settlements last year would need to have been contained to no more than 2 per cent above productivity growth. Since only a third of British manufacturers achieved this target, the CBI gives a warning that in a recession, such figures indicate further redundancies. What it sees as a slowdown in earnings growth must continue, the CBI says, in order to stop the rising tide of redundancies turning into a flood.

John Banham, CBI director general, said: "The growth in unemployment can only accelerate unless lower pay settlements lead inflation downwards." He added: "If such recklessness prevails, there will be needless job losses, bringing bleak prospects to thousands of families in the new year."

## Economists see devaluation or rise in rates

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND GRAHAM SEARJEANT

THE government could face the awkward choice of an interest rate rise or a devaluation of the pound next year, Oxford Economic Forecasting predicts in an end-of-year report.

The report comes as two senior bankers voiced fears that there is little the government can do to prevent a full-blown recession and a sharp increase in business failures before the economy shows any sign of recovery.

Oxford forecasts that the trade deficit, after narrowing well into next year, will deteriorate again and upset the foreign exchanges. OEF attributes



All quiet at the City's nerve centre: even the Bank of England, right, lacked visitors at midday yesterday

## Gloomy outlook for two industries

By OUR CITY STAFF

BRITAIN'S road freight and printing industries face a bleak 1991, according to industry surveys.

The printing industry is in deepening recession, a study by the British Printing Industries Federation shows. Seven thousand jobs, equal to 5.6 per cent of the workforce, have been shed through redundancy by the federation's 3,451 member firms this year.

In the gloomiest quarterly survey, conducted in mid-December, the federation found two thirds of the 60 representative companies working below capacity. A seasonal uplift in activity, expected in the autumn, failed to occur.

Colin Stanley, BPIF director general, said: "Three months ago, 22 per cent of our members thought that trade would be down in the final quarter. In reality, 48 per cent found that trade was down."

## Complaint by Nadir over jail treatment

Ankara

ASIL NADIR, the chairman of the collapsed Polly Peck International empire, has accused British courts of leaving him to rot in prison on false charges.

"Leaving people to decay in jails for ten to 15 years on made-up evidence is not unknown in Britain," Mr Nadir said in an interview with one of the newspapers he owns in Turkey.

He added: "That is British justice's treatment of me."

Mr Nadir was freed from five days in custody on December 20 after raising record bail of £3.5 million. He faces a second court hearing on January 28 and is not allowed to leave London.

The police are enquiring into 18 counts of theft and false accounting against Mr Nadir, allegedly involving £25 million.

Mr Nadir denies illegal dealing to support Polly Peck shares, which lost £2 billion in value before trading was suspended on September 20.

Mr Nadir described his jail cell as not fit for a pig.

"In British jails, they pay prisoners awaiting trial £1.45 a week to spend at the canteen," said Mr Nadir, who built Polly Peck into one of the hottest stocks of the Eighties.

"I was also given the money. I was happy. At the end of my 23 hours in the cell, I was allowed to go to the canteen."

"I demanded two packs of cigarettes, a pack of candy, two colas, a bottle of soda and a box of matches."

"The canteen man said to me: 'Are you kidding? You can only buy 13 cigarettes with this money. For the matches, try next week.'"

(Reuters)

## Lloyd's capacity for underwriting to reach £11.4bn

By JONATHAN PRYNN

UNDERWRITING capacity at Lloyd's is poised to reach a record of £11.4 billion next year, according to provisional year-end figures published by the market.

The capacity figure marks an increase of £400 million over this year and follows several years of unchanged or declining capacity. This year the number of underwriting members or names continued to fall, with 2,150 resignations against only 254 new members beginning underwriting at the start of next year. This will bring the number of names at Lloyd's down to 26,534 against 32,433 at the peak in 1988.

The overall capacity increase came from the record 6,329 names that will increase their premium limits for next year. The average premium limit for names next year will be £385,000, against £350,000 last year and £251,000 for resigning names.

David Coleridge, the incoming chairman of Lloyd's, who has argued that additional capacity will be needed to meet the rise in the insurance cycle in the early Nineties, said: "The increase in capacity comes at an opportune time for Lloyd's since all the indications are that the market is hardening at last and premium rates are rising compared with the last three years."

Most sections of the market have reported higher rates during this year's renewal season. Derek Willis, chairman of Lloyd's Underwriters' Association, which represents the marine market, said: "The reinsurance market is considerably tighter and some primary rates for vessels and

## City stretches its holiday another day

THE City of London limped back into life as most dealers decided to make a week of the Christmas break.

In the equity market it took until 1pm for turnover to pass 100 million shares, half the normal number.

Among the sectors favoured by the market were brewers, retailers and housebuilders. The most actively traded were Trusthouse Forte, Trafalgar House, Ladbrooke, WH Smith, Courtaulds, BICC, Tarmac, Kingsfisher and Boots.

Only a burst in the last 90 minutes helped lift turnover close to 180 million shares. An expected rush to sell by private investors in the electricity distributors failed to materialise.

## Excellent Tessa start, says Lamont

THE tax-free Tessa schemes for savers will get off to an excellent start, according to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor.

Tax-exempt special savings accounts were introduced by John Major, Mr Lamont's predecessor, in his "Budget for Savers" in March and will open for business next Tuesday.

Savers can invest up to a maximum of £9,000 over the five-year life of a bank or building society Tessa, with up to £3,000 in the first year and up to £1,800 in later years. Interest remains free of tax as long as the capital is left in the account over the full five years.

"This is an important measure which will encourage taxpayers to save," said Mr Lamont in a statement.

"The scheme is convenient, flexible and simple. I am pleased to see that many banks and building societies have chosen to introduce this new savings product for their customers."

"Tessas are getting off to an excellent start. I am sure that they will help to cultivate the savings habit."



Lamont: important measure

## Nissan to cut ties with UK distributor

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NISSAN Motor Company of Japan has given notice that it is severing links with Nissan UK, its sole distributor in Britain, and may set up a new dealer network within 12 months. It alleged breaches of contract by Nissan UK.

A spokesman for Nissan UK, a privately owned company which sold 138,000 Nissan vehicles worth £950 million last year, called the notice "totally invalid and without any legal foundation".

The confrontation comes after five years of growing acrimony. Two weeks ago, Octav Botnar, chairman of Nissan UK, offered for the second time in five years to sell the company to its Japanese supplier. In the autumn, he complained about the price he was charged for Primera, Nissan's latest British-built saloon.

Nissan Motor Company announced yesterday it would terminate existing agreements, but was offering a continuing arrangement until December 31, 1991.

Yoshikazu Kawana, managing director for European operations, said: "Events have demonstrated that NUK is not prepared to abide by the legal agreements between our companies and that the matter cannot be remedied by private discussion."

"Nor do we feel that we can give serious consideration to the offer to sell NUK's business to us, given that extremely protracted negotiations on this matter have taken place before when NUK's position resulted in failure to conclude an agreement."

A company spokesman said plans were in hand for "a new set up" in place of the network of 400 dealers appointed by NUK.

In a statement, NUK said it "seriously refutes" allegations by NMC about its performance. A spokesman added: "Nissan UK has offered in good faith the opportunity for Nissan of Japan to acquire an interest in, and eventually total ownership of, our company. No substantive response or discussions have followed this offer, which is still on the table."

NUK has sold more than 1.9 million Nissan vehicles in Britain during the past 21 years, building Nissan a 6 per cent share of the new-car market. It claimed to have the right to sell all Nissan vehicles in Britain "in perpetuity". NMC denies that. In 1987, 70 per cent of Nissan

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Shoe	Size	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Adidas	7 1/2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Adidas	8	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Adidas	8 1/2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Adidas	9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Adidas	9 1/2	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Adidas	10	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Adidas	10 1/2	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Adidas	11	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Adidas	11 1/2	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Adidas	12	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Adidas	12 1/2	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Adidas	13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Adidas	13 1/2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Adidas	14	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Adidas	14 1/2	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Adidas	15	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
Adidas	15 1/2	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
Adidas	16	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
Adidas	16 1/2	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Adidas	17	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
Adidas	17 1/2	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
Adidas	18	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
Adidas	18 1/2	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Adidas	19	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
Adidas	19 1/2	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Adidas	20	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
Adidas	20 1/2	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
Adidas	21	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Adidas	21 1/2	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
Adidas	22	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
Adidas	22 1/2	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
Adidas	23	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
Adidas	23 1/2	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Adidas	24	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
Adidas	24 1/2	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
Adidas	25	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
Adidas	25 1/2	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Adidas	26	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
Adidas	26 1/2	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
Adidas	27	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
Adidas	27 1/2	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
Adidas	28	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
Adidas	28 1/2	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Adidas	29	55	56	57	58	59	60	61
Adidas	29 1/2	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
Adidas	30	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
Adidas	30 1/2	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
Adidas	31	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
Adidas	31 1/2	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
Adidas	32	6						

19	Damon	1.36	122	+1	12.0	8.8	7.8
20	Dwyane Wade	1.32	140	+1	1.8	7.0	11.7
21	Forster (Miami)	1.32	92	-	-	-	-
42	Garrett	1.31	102	-	11.7	7.8	4.8
43	Hickling	1.31	71	-	2.8	3.8	-
83	Jarvis (K)	1.30	-	-	11.2	18.5	3.0
85	Lumpkin	1.29	231	+1	12.3	8.7	7.0
86	Lozley	1.28	108	-	-	-	7.4
87	Lytle	1.28	95	-	3.7	4.8	-
88	Lytle (S)	1.28	42	-	5.4	12.2	5.5
70	Paynter, W	1.27	102	-	5.1	7.5	2.1
94	Pennington	1.26	76	-	4.8	19.0	5.8
31	SEET	1.25	20	-	-	-	-
45	Sister	1.24	47	-	6.0	15.0	7.8
34	Steady	1.24	34	-	3.2	8.4	8.1
35	Steady	1.24	34	-	3.2	8.4	8.1

West Trust	96	75	1	0.7	10.8	7.2
Yorladye	140	150		12.8	8.8	4.2
<b>TOBACCOS</b>						
BAT Co	582	580	+6	41.5	7.3	10.2
Procter & Gamble	747	760	+1	30.5	2.7	11.1

17	Alman, Dr. Henry	169	182	-	8.0	4.7	8.4
55	Balk, Inc.	415	418	+3	32.3	2.9	11.2
26	Dr. Amey, (m)	141	145	-1	11.8	8.3	4.8
116	Carleton	340	350	-10	18.7	4.8	13.3
44	Chisholm	145	150	-5	10.0	7.9	8.0
78	Davis, Dr. Emerson	20	20	0	-	-	-
55	Eumathal, Inc.	200	200	-0	-	-	-
32	Emerson (Wizards)	21	23	-2	-	-	-
81	Fisher (Lewins)	76	78	-2	6.7	5.3	6.8
55	Gust	100	110	-10	2.4	2.1	5.3
41	Jacobs (J)	62	65	-3	5.7	13.0	55.7
32	Lap	146	152	-6	8.3	5.5	11.2
13	Manchester Ship	176	176	0	1.0	1.0	1.0
13	Master, Office	176	171	+4	8.0	5.5	25.0

	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
30	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65
40	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70
50	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
60	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
70	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85
80	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90
90	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95
100	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100

181	South West	238	270	23	21.0	7.8	5.8
178	Switzerland	243	245	4	18.8	8.1	4.2
181	Spain, West	243	247	1	20.0	8.2	5.3
203	Sweden	262	265	4	23.2	8.8	4.2
178	Thailand	271	271	0	22.8	8.8	4.2
203	Theresa West	271	277	2	22.6	6.1	4.4
203	Turkey	281	281	0	20.3	7.8	5.0
203	United States	281	281	0	20.3	7.8	5.0
174	Yokohama, West	281	276	4	20.8	7.7	5.8
203	Package 11A	22643		+237			



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## UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

## MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 93.0 (day's range 92.8-93.2)

[illegible]

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

## COMMODITIES

[illegible]

**نَحْنُ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ**

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## YACHTING

# Rothmans races on as gales take toll on a battered fleet

From Bob Ross in Sydney

THE British maxi, Rothmans, skippered by Lawrie Smith, raced to a lead of more than 20 miles in the Sydney to Hobart race last night as gale force winds hit the fleet and disabled ten yachts.

Rothmans was 80 miles into Bass Strait after running most of the day under spinnaker before northeast to northerly winds that by last night had built to 35 to 45 knots. Her crew reported she was reaching speeds of 22 knots as she surfed down the ten-foot seas raised by the strong following wind in near round-the-world race conditions.

The Rob Humphreys-designed Rothmans was followed by the Farr 65-footer, Brindabella, owned by George Snow, of Canberra, and manned by a strong crew, including Graham Freeman, of Tasmania, who is working for the Italian Il Moro Ameri-

ca's Cup challenge syndicate, just ahead of the Ron Holland-designed maxi, Condor (Tony Paola), and Syd Fischer's Frers maxi, Ragamuffin.

Rothmans was second on corrected time to the outstanding Sydney Farr One Tonne, Sagacious V (Gary Appleby), with the revamped nine-year-old One Tonne, Anduri (David Kennedy), designed by Ed Dubois, of England, third. Beyond Thunderdome, the Davidson-designed One Tonne under charter to a British crew headed by Mark Beeson, was seventh on corrected time.

The retirements, last night totalling 12 from the fleet of 106 starters, include last year's Hobart race winner, Ultimea, a Dubois One Tonne, which broke her rudder when she hit an unidentified object. She

was heading for the fishing port of Eden on the southeast coast of New South Wales. The Tasmanian Three Quarter Tonne, Northern Securities (Richard Latham), had two of her crew washed overboard. They were recovered, but one has a cut hand and the yacht was also heading for Eden.

The Sydney Farr Two Tonne, Madeline's Daughter (Peter Kurts), which led the race on corrected time yesterday morning, retired with unspecified rig damage and headed back to Sydney.

Another front runner for a corrected time win, the Sydney Farr One Tonne, Prime Factor (Bob Brady), broke her rudder and retired.

Other casualties included the Soviet entry, Ariel, skippered by Anatoli Kononov, from Melbourne, the New South Wales police entry, On the Beat, and the Australian yacht, On Fire (Doug Coulter), Jack Guy (Gordon Kestelbey) and Leroy Brown (Warren Wickmann).

The rough conditions were expected to worsen with the east-northeast winds of 30 to 40 knots shifting west-southwest during the night and the seas building to 16ft.

The weather system is dominated by a complex trough of low pressure in Bass Strait. The winds are predicted to ease to 15 to 25 knots today.

LEADING POSITIONS AT 2200 yesterday, with distances in miles to Sydney:

1. Rothmans (L. Smith, GB) 287.2; 2. Sagacious V (G. Appleby, NZ) 287.1; 3. Brindabella (G. Snow, AU) 287.0; 4. Condor (T. Paola, NZ) 286.9; 5. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 286.8; 6. Prime Factor (B. Brady, NZ) 286.7; 7. Northern Securities (R. Latham, NZ) 286.6; 8. Ultimea (D. Kennedy, NZ) 286.5; 9. On the Beat (A. Kononov, AU) 286.4; 10. On Fire (D. Coulter, AU) 286.3; 11. Madeline's Daughter (P. Kurts, NZ) 286.2; 12. Thunderdome (D. Davidson, NZ) 286.1; 13. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 286.0; 14. On the Beat (A. Kononov, AU) 285.9; 15. On Fire (D. Coulter, AU) 285.8; 16. Madeline's Daughter (P. Kurts, NZ) 285.7; 17. Thunderdome (D. Davidson, NZ) 285.6; 18. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 285.5; 19. On the Beat (A. Kononov, AU) 285.4; 20. On Fire (D. Coulter, AU) 285.3; 21. Madeline's Daughter (P. Kurts, NZ) 285.2; 22. Thunderdome (D. Davidson, NZ) 285.1; 23. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 285.0; 24. On the Beat (A. Kononov, AU) 284.9; 25. On Fire (D. Coulter, AU) 284.8; 26. Madeline's Daughter (P. Kurts, NZ) 284.7; 27. Thunderdome (D. Davidson, NZ) 284.6; 28. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 284.5; 29. On the Beat (A. Kononov, AU) 284.4; 30. On Fire (D. Coulter, AU) 284.3; 31. Madeline's Daughter (P. Kurts, NZ) 284.2; 32. Thunderdome (D. Davidson, NZ) 284.1; 33. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 284.0; 34. On the Beat (A. Kononov, AU) 283.9; 35. On Fire (D. Coulter, AU) 283.8; 36. Madeline's Daughter (P. Kurts, NZ) 283.7; 37. Thunderdome (D. Davidson, NZ) 283.6; 38. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 283.5; 39. On the Beat (A. Kononov, AU) 283.4; 40. On Fire (D. Coulter, AU) 283.3; 41. Madeline's Daughter (P. Kurts, NZ) 283.2; 42. Thunderdome (D. Davidson, NZ) 283.1; 43. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 283.0; 44. On the Beat (A. Kononov, AU) 282.9; 45. On Fire (D. Coulter, AU) 282.8; 46. Madeline's Daughter (P. Kurts, NZ) 282.7; 47. Thunderdome (D. Davidson, NZ) 282.6; 48. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 282.5; 49. On the Beat (A. Kononov, AU) 282.4; 50. On Fire (D. Coulter, AU) 282.3; 51. Madeline's Daughter (P. 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Kurts, NZ) 238.2; 492. Thunderdome (D. Davidson, NZ) 238.1; 493. Anduri (D. Kennedy, NZ) 238.0; 49



# Kempton

## Hills gives up hope of buying Manton

By RICHARD EVANS

BARRY HILLS yesterday gave up the struggle to buy Manton, the 11-year-old gelding who was the subject of a £1 million offer from the Irish trainer.

The horse, who was bought by Hills in 1981, was the subject of a £1 million offer from the Irish trainer, who was looking for a horse to replace the late Manton.

Hills, who is now the owner of the horse, said that he was not interested in buying Manton, as he was not sure if he could afford to pay the £1 million for the horse.

Hills, who is now the owner of the horse, said that he was not interested in buying Manton, as he was not sure if he could afford to pay the £1 million for the horse.

# Celtic Chief set to reward McConnell's patience

By MANDARIN

ALL eyes will be on two form Cheltenham festival stars, Celtic Chief and Rustle as they make their debut at Newbury today after lengthy lay-offs.

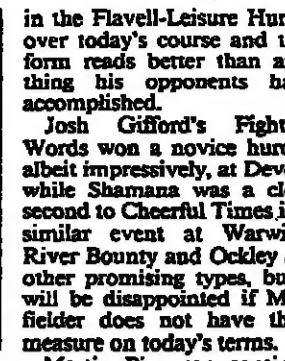
Celtic Chief, who contested the two-mile Wantage Novices' Chase, was last seen in public chasing home Beech Road, then a 50-1 chance, in the 1989 Champion Hurdle.

Now rising eight, Celtic Chief has always been a classy performer and should certainly make a mark for his trainer John McConnell, who has been patient with the horse's progress.

His trainer John McConnell has been patient with the horse's progress, and he is always difficult to gauge the chance of a horse following a long absence, but Rustle is given the vote over Celtic Chief to make up for lost time at the expense of Acre Hill, who demonstrated plenty of ability with a spirited victory over L B Laughs at Sandown last time out.

The in-form Richard Dunwoody, who rides Acre Hill, will be aboard Rustle, who returns to the fray in the Elopark Novices' Chase over three miles.

Staying has always been Rustle's forte and he kept the Irish challenge at bay in the 1989 Waterford Crystal Stayers' Hurdle with a comprehensive 12-length defeat of Galmoy in going that was decidedly testing.



McConnell's Celtic Chief

It is always difficult to gauge the chance of a horse following a long absence, but Rustle is given the vote over Celtic Chief to make up for lost time at the expense of Acre Hill, who demonstrated plenty of ability with a spirited victory over L B Laughs at Sandown last time out.

# Rawhide prevails in tight finish

From OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

THE £30,000 Findus Handicap Chase at Leopardstown yesterday provided a great spectacle with just a length covering five of the 12 runners coming to the final fence.

Rawhide forged to the front on the run-in but just as it seemed he was decisively the topweight Barney Burnett, conceding 25lb, fought back courageously, Charlie Swan, the reigning Irish champion jockey, kept Rawhide at full stretch to hold on by a diminishing three-quarters of a length with What A Fox, another half a length away third.

The winner, contesting the fourth stage of his career, is trained by "Mick" McEvoy for his Harry McAlmont and will be entered for the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham, Barney Burnett, who generally comes to his best in the spring, will be aimed at the Grand National.

With Carville's Hill out of action because of a freak injury received at home last week, the 12-year-old gelding, And White Whisky Champion Chase has attracted just five declared starters, one of whom, Astral River, was unplanned yesterday.

Rawhide's stable companion Cahavillough, four lengths third to Arctic Call in the 34-mile Hennessy Cognac Cup at Newbury last time, will be back but he may find today's 25-1 odds a little short. He could be vulnerable to the superior pace of the front-running Blitzkrieg.

# Fontwell Park

Selections  
By Mandarin

1.0 Vignone, 1.30 Intrepid Lass, 2.0 Southernair, 2.30 Cock A Leekie, 3.00 Pragada, 3.30 City Kid.

Going: good

1.0 TOTTINGTOWN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (11/72: 2m 25) (18 runners)

1-3396 CHAMPAGNE 19 (D.F.) 5-11-10 D. Morgan (7)  
2-403 SPANISH LOVE 25 (M) 4-11-10 C. Coe (7)  
3-404 HANDED PREMIER 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
4-523 CROMWELL CHRISTIAN 24 (M) 5-11-10 G. Moore (7)  
5-PP1 EMMERALD SURE 23 (M) 4-11-10 D. Morgan (7)

6-4044 HANDED PREMIER 14 (D.F.) 5-11-10 D. Morgan (7)  
7-4044 HANDED PREMIER 14 (D.F.) 5-11-10 D. Morgan (7)  
8-4044 HANDED PREMIER 14 (D.F.) 5-11-10 D. Morgan (7)  
9-4044 HANDED PREMIER 14 (D.F.) 5-11-10 D. Morgan (7)  
10-4044 HANDED PREMIER 14 (D.F.) 5-11-10 D. Morgan (7)  
11-4044 HANDED PREMIER 14 (D.F.) 5-11-10 D. Morgan (7)  
12-4044 HANDED PREMIER 14 (D.F.) 5-11-10 D. Morgan (7)

1.30 BRIGHTON NOVICES HURDLE (11/350: 2m 20) (20)

1-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
2-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
3-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
4-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
5-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
6-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
7-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
8-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
9-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
10-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
11-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)  
12-1975 ELIZABETH 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 P. Corigan (7)

# RACING 25

2.0 WHITEHALL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (22/89: 2m 40) (11)

1-10-1 SOUTHERNAIR 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
2-1-2 BREAKFAST CAR 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
3-2-3 CUB ROSS 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
4-2-4 WILLOW 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
5-2-5 WILLOW 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
6-2-6 WILLOW 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
7-2-7 WILLOW 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
8-2-8 WILLOW 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
9-2-9 WILLOW 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
10-2-10 WILLOW 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
11-2-11 WILLOW 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)

2.30 M & H RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (22/679: 2m 20) (11)

1-2-2 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
2-2-2 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
3-2-3 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
4-2-4 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
5-2-5 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
6-2-6 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
7-2-7 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
8-2-8 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
9-2-9 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
10-2-10 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)  
11-2-11 ALABAMA 24 (D.F.) 5-11-10 T. Morgan (7)

# NEWBURY

Selections  
By Mandarin

1.00 Rustle, 1.00 MIDDLEFIELD (nap), 1.30 Star's Delight.

2.00 Celtic Chief, 2.30 Aloose Success, 3.00 Royal Gossip.

By Michael Seely

1.00 Rustle, 1.00 Celtic Chief.

Going: good (good to soft in back straight on hurdles course) SIS

1.00 ELTON PARK NOVICES CHASE (22/282: 3m) (7 runners)

1-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
2-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
3-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
4-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
5-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
6-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
7-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50

1.00 RAMSBURY HURDLE (4-10-0: 24/402: 2m 14) (12 runners)

1-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
2-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
3-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
4-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
5-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
6-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
7-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50

# Rest for Desert Orchid

DESERT Orchid may be given January off as reward for his record-breaking win in the King George VI Race at Ascot on Boxing Day. Trainer David Elsworth has a number of options but he is currently considering the Aga Diament Chase at Sandown on February 2 as the next objective.

"He is in fine shape and was looking over his box at me at 1 left the yard," Elsworth said. "This is a homecoming period for him and he will be looking at the Aga Diament Chase."

Charlie Brooks and John Upson, who trained the disappointing Celtic Shot and Nick The Brief, could offer no explanations for the poor performances of their charges.

# Form Focus

ACRE HILL driven out to beat L B Laughs 11-10 at Sandown (2m 10yd) on Christmas Eve. Likely to improve.

BUCK WILLOW 2nd to useful novice hurdler Acre Hill at Leopardstown (2m 40yd) on Christmas Eve. Celtic Chief, former top class hurdler, 2nd to Beech Road in 1989 Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 40yd) on Christmas Eve. MIGHTY FALCON (2m 10yd) on Christmas Eve.

2.00 WENTWELL HANDICAP CHASE (22/329: 3m) (8 runners)

1-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
2-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
3-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
4-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
5-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
6-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
7-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50

# Course specialists

1.15 Alreaf, 1.45 High Noddy, 2.15 Mr Gossip, 2.45 Go West, 3.15 Kameo Style, 3.45 The Shy Controller.

Going: good to soft

1.15 PETER PAN NOVICES HURDLE (22/283: 2m) (17 runners)

1-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
2-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
3-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
4-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
5-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
6-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
7-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50

# Selections

By Mandarin

1.00 Myceline, 1.15 Marigold, 1.45 Anthea Spirit.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 SNOWFIRE CHAP (nap).

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 SNOWFIRE CHAP.

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

1.00 PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21/718: 3m 100yd) (11 runners)

1-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
2-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
3-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
4-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
5-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
6-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
7-101-101 CORNUCOPIA 25 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50

# Guide to our in-line racecard

1.15-1.45 GOOD TIMES 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
2.15-2.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
3.15-3.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
4.15-4.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
5.15-5.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
6.15-6.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
7.15-7.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50

# Course specialists

1.15-1.45 GOOD TIMES 10 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
2.15-2.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
3.15-3.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
4.15-4.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
5.15-5.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
6.15-6.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
7.15-7.45 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50

# Wolverhampton

Going: good, good to firm in places (good to firm, good to soft in places)

1.00-1.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
2.00-2.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
3.00-3.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
4.00-4.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
5.00-5.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
6.00-6.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
7.00-7.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50

# Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.00-1.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
2.00-2.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
3.00-3.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
4.00-4.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
5.00-5.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
6.00-6.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50  
7.00-7.30 THE LAMPOUR OVER 15 (D.F.) 5-11-10 J. Gifford 8-11-10 R. Rowe 50

# Trainers

Trainer	Runners	Per cent
M Hammond	4	11
C Bess	4	11
M G Rossley	4	11
J Broadbent	4	11
G Richards	4	11
G Moore	4	11

# Jockeys

Jockey	Rides	Per cent
N Dwyer	27	94
L Dwyer	27	94
P Niven	27	94
M Johnson	27	94
M Dwyer	27	94

# Trainers

Trainer	Runners	Per cent
M Hammond	4	11
C Bess	4	11
M G Rossley	4	11
J Broadbent	4	11
G Richards	4	11
G Moore	4	11

# Jockeys

Jockey	Rides	Per cent
N Dwyer	27	94
L Dwyer	27	94
P Niven	27	94
M Johnson	27	94
M Dwyer	27	94

# Trainers

Trainer	Runners	Per cent
M Hammond	4	11
C Bess	4	11
M G Rossley	4	11
J Broadbent	4	11
G Richards	4	11
G Moore	4	11











THE TIMES SPORT

YACHTING 24  
RACING 24, 25  
FOOTBALL 27

Mason's bluff called by Lewis

LENNOX Lewis has formally signed his double heavy-weight boxing contract with Gary Mason, the British champion, at Wembley on February 13. Mason's manager and promoter, Mickey Duff, had been convinced that Lewis, the undefeated European champion, would want no part in the bout, worth £276,000.

Frank Maloney, the manager of Lewis, arrived from Canada yesterday with the contract complete and ready to return to Duff with a double condition of compensation for a warm-up bout if the contest does not take place on the agreed date.

"Let's see if they are going ahead with it," Maloney said. "I believe the only reason Duff paid so much money for the fight was that he thought it wouldn't happen."

"Duff said that Lewis will be making a withdrawal, but our plan is to move into the frontline. Lennox has proved that by signing the contract and now let's see what Mason's plan is."

"After this, Mason and his promoters will have nowhere to go. Mason has got a lot to lose by taking this fight and it's time for the bluffing and games to stop."

"Gary has gone along fighting cruiserweights and this is the first time he will be taking on a fully-fledged heavyweight and we'll see if he can absorb 16st 6lb hitting him on the chin."

The European champion's British career was recently thrown into doubt by the financial crash of his backers, the Levitt Group. Maloney said: "His contract is still in operation and it means we will have to work harder for things."

Lewis, who shortly moves to a United States training camp, had a message for Mason. He said: "I am looking forward to winning the British title in February. You must be ready for a real awakening and introduction into the heavyweight division."

Lewis will be receiving £138,000 plus a share of television cash for a night which could elevate him into the higher reaches of the world rankings.

George Middleton, the manager of the late Randolph Turpin, who beat the legendary American, Sugar Ray Robinson, to win the world middleweight title in 1951, has died, aged 86.

England haunted by past failings

From ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, MELBOURNE

IN THE middle of a match, statistics can prove everything and nothing. By nightfall here yesterday, England could have been congratulating themselves for exceeding 300 in a first innings against Australia for the first time in seven Tests. Or they could have been pondering what happened on the last occasion, and the real prospect of something similar happening here.

No matter what may ensue in this second Test, the fact is that England, winning the toss on a torpid pitch, had a plain opportunity to bat Australia out of contention. They failed by maybe 70 runs, or a session's work, and defeat remained an ominous possibility as Mark Taylor began to show the signs of a man revisiting some much-loved old haunts.

At Headingley in 1989, Taylor began his bullying of the England attack with a century on his debut against them. England countered with a total of 430, then threw the game away on the last afternoon. The bad memories are revived by Taylor's presence now.

By the close of a day which started cool and cloudy yet became appropriately hot and stormy, Taylor was within eight runs of making a half-century in each of his first eight Tests against England, a remarkable feat by one who continues to look an unremarkable, though formidably well organised, player. Taylor will never be remembered for his vivid strokeplay, but none of this generation of England players will easily forget him for his relentless technical excellence.

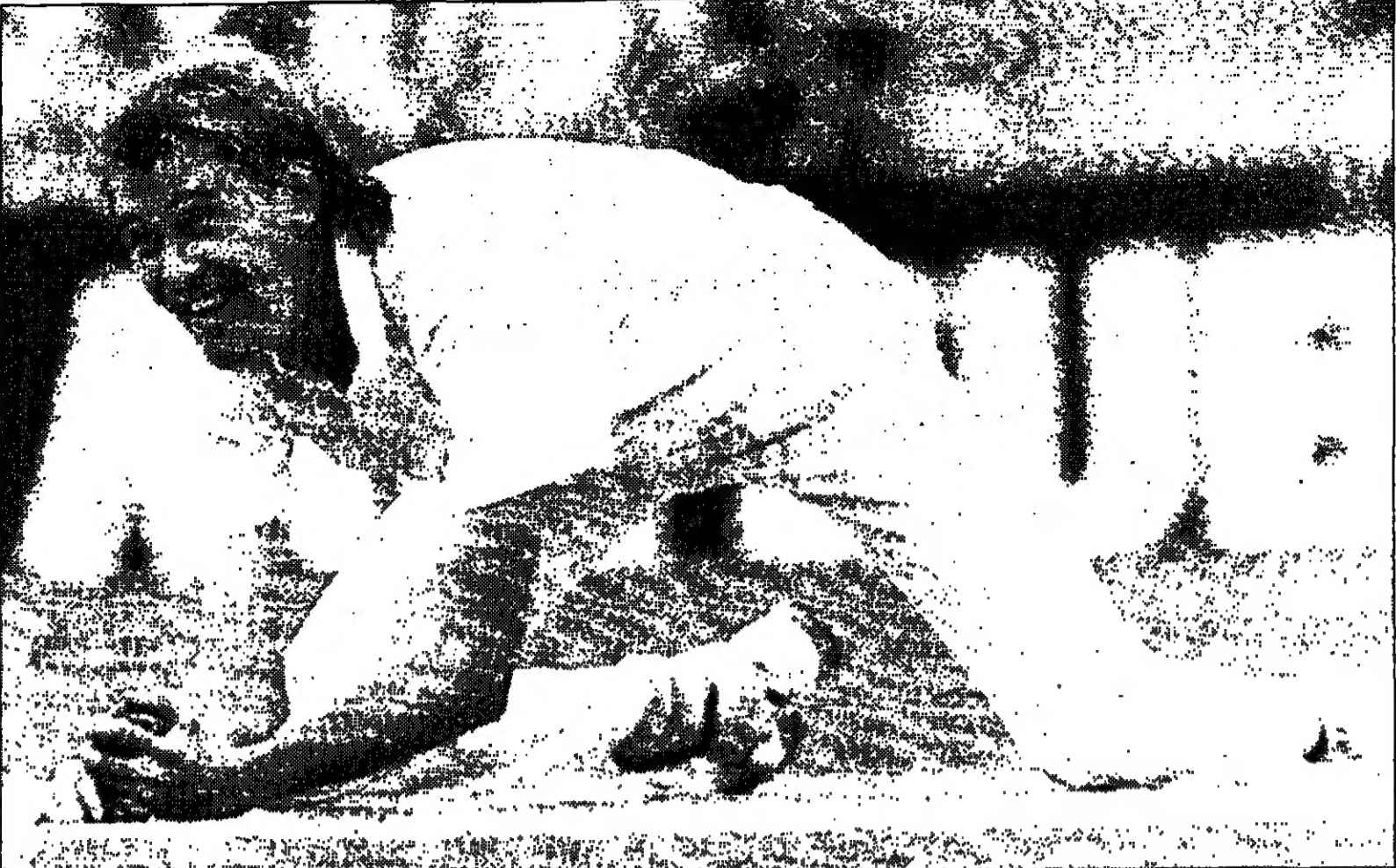
As left-handers go, Taylor is the antithesis of David Gower, whose game has always thrived on the adventure which Taylor will calculate and eschew. Overnight, it was Gower's unbeaten 73 which encouraged the hundreds of English supporters in the city to believe that a total of 450 remained within the scope of their side. And so, for as long as Gower dominated the morning session, it did.

Gower had won his private battles on Wednesday, convincing himself he was fit enough to play and then convincing many others who chose to doubt him that he is still far too good to be pensioned off. Yesterday, the demands relaxed, he played with charm and composure for 50 minutes when what England really needed was for him to bat most of the day.

This, however, was not the case. Gower, who has infuriated us all. He achieved the day's priority by negotiating the second new ball, then unfurled two memorable cover drives against Alderman, struck so sweetly that they rocketed to the far-off boundary even over this adhesive outfield. Suddenly, the century was his, quietly acknowledged by one with something still more substantial in mind.

It was not to be. Bruce Reid, here as in Brisbane much the most threatening Australian bowler, pushed him defensively onto the back foot, deceived him with extra bounce and, as the ball looped tantalisingly back off the splice, reached down his long left arm to pluck the catch.

Gower's head dropped, his eyes closed and he prodded the pitch accusingly. But despite the feeling that he had more to offer, this was a century of character by the batsman who has been the top scorer in England's last four Test match innings. If you



Stooping to conquer: Reid clings to a return chance from Gower after the England batsman had reached his hundred in Melbourne yesterday

seek a convenient scapegoat, look elsewhere. It was when his innings ended that England slipped into familiar ways. Their last six wickets were taken for 78 runs, an improvement on 60 and 46 in the Brisbane Test, but further evidence of a lower order functioning below acceptable levels.

Jack Russell's batting, a bonus for so long, has temporarily become a liability. He has not reached 40 in any match on the tour and, yesterday, was out to a needless legside wicket to the final ball before lunch. Psychologically, it was exactly what Australia needed, and poor Russell is simply not justifying being as high as No. 7.

Sadly, there is no one hustling him from below, and as Reid took the next three wickets, each one the result of a bat thrust hypocritically at the left-armers' stock, angled delivery, England's innings fell apologetically short.

Even Alec Stewart, Gower's ally in the fifth-wicket stand of 122, strode away cursing himself when he compromised almost five hours of concentration with a poor shot. For the first time, however, he had begun to look an authentic Test batsman and, for his sake, one must hope that England now allow him to settle at No. 6 in the order.

Reid's six wickets, of which he took four for 26 in 16 overs yesterday, were vindication of his own resolve, and his surgeon's skill, during a protracted fight against spinal damage. He looks a world-class bowler with the priceless advantage of variety.

England's four chosen bowlers boasted only 120 Test wickets between them, and in difficult, windswept conditions they created few problems. It was a surprise when Marsh was out, pushing at a good outswinger from DeFreitas, but there was nothing further to persuade England they had not missed a good opportunity to put Australia on the defensive for the first time in two series.

Back injury puts Lewis out of tour

From ALAN LEE

CHRIS Lewis must fly home from Australia tomorrow, the tour which might have established him as a genuine England all-rounder prematurely terminated.

Lewis, aged 22, born in Guyana and reckoned by Australia's coach, Bob Simpson, to be England's most exciting young cricketer, has a stress fracture of the back which he must rest for up to three months.

His condition, which had been undiagnosed for some weeks, had puzzled and frustrated the England management. It was finally explained when Lewis underwent spinal x-rays yesterday. Once the fracture was discovered, there was no option but to send him home in the hope that he can recover fitness in time for the English summer.

No decision has been announced on any further replacement players, but with

DeFreitas already on site, having been summoned to cover for Small, England cannot justify any more recruiting unless they suffer still more injuries.

However, Hugh Morris, due to leave next week to begin his duties as England A team captain in Pakistan, may yet be retained here instead.

On such a turbulent tour, one more setback tends to attract only a numb resignation, but, as the manager, Peter Lush, explained last night, there is special sympathy for Lewis, whose injury-prone career is in jeopardy.

"We have had a few knocks on this tour, but this is especially hard to take," Lush said. "It has come as a big shock to Chris and he was heartbroken when told the news. But there is no reason why he should not make a complete recovery."

Woolhouse buys Sheffield United

By IAN ROSS

THREE years after a controlling interest in the club was officially made available for sale, the ownership of Sheffield United changed hands yesterday.

Reg Brealey, the United chairman since 1980, tendered his resignation after agreeing to sell his majority shareholding to his fellow-director, Paul Woolhouse, who, for the past 12 months, has been seeking to purchase the club he has supported since childhood.

After buying Brealey's 1,675 shares for an estimated £3.2 million, Woolhouse now holds a total of 2,096 shares, or 75 per cent.

Brealey, who announced his decision to the club's annual general meeting in a faxed

message sent from India, where he is on a business trip, has also resigned as a director, so severing completely his ties with the South Yorkshire club.

Woolhouse, aged 41, is the chairman of a group of locally based companies specialising in property, metals and computers, and has been a member of the board at Bramall Lane since 1985. He replaces Brealey as club chairman with immediate effect.

His seizure of power yesterday was the climax of a carefully orchestrated campaign, one which gathered momentum earlier this year when Brealey controversially announced that he had reached agreement to sell his shares to Sam Hashimi.

Hashimi, a London-based Iraqi businessman, said at a

press conference in early March that he had agreed, in principle, to purchase the club for an estimated £6.25 million.

The proposal was met with open hostility by a high percentage of the United supporters and was greeted with incredulity and suspicion by the club's board of directors.

Woolhouse publicly voiced his concern at the implications of the proposed sale and was so incensed that he acted as the figurehead of a consortium of local businessmen which immediately launched a counter-bid.

Woolhouse said that Brealey had taken his decision to step down because of his mounting business difficulties. "Reg is having prob-

Leicester wilt as Moon rises to the challenge

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Leicester..... 21  
Barbarians..... 26

THE aura of this traditional holiday match never fails. In a changing world, Leicester and the Barbarians retain the capacity to thrill, and the 72nd in the series, at a cold and windy Welford Road yesterday, was no exception.

A crowd of 17,300 revelled in the entertainment, and if their support was, at times, a trifle muted, it may be that they thought their club - deprived of Richards, their immense captain, and three other first-choice players - had little chance of victory.

How wrong they were as Leicester recovered from a ten-point deficit to take the lead, only to lose it in the final quarter.

The Barbarians, in the sixth match of their centenary season, won by three goals and two tries to two goals and three penalty goals, and deserved to. Their spirit was best exemplified by Moon, a replacement for Emyr as early as the ninth minute, who scored two tries on the left wing, and Pool-Jones, the Cambridge University flanker, who lost nothing by comparison with the distinguished company he was keeping.

Emyr, the Swansea wing, limped off after a heavy tackle by Rory Underwood, and there are fears that damaged ankle ligaments may exclude him from selection for Wales against England on January 19. National considerations, though, played little part in a marvellously competitive game in which the extra class of the visitors finally told.

But during the middle part of the game they were excluded by the tenacity of the Leicester pack, which conceded nothing in the lineouts

and whose rolling mauls gave the back division a splendid platform. It soon became apparent, though, that the strength of the Barbarians' midfield would let nothing through, and the hinge of the Leicester offensive became Kardooni.

Not for the first time this season the agile scrum half proved a rare handful, well supported by the industrious Back. He and Robinson, his opposite number, spent the afternoon in each other's pocket, though it was sad to see the Bath flanker obstruct Tony Underwood so badly early in the game when Kardooni made the first of several telling breaks.

Liley, who kicked everything on offer, opened the scoring with a penalty goal, but the Barbarians scored the opening try when Robinson was first to a wild Leicester tap at a lineout and the ball flickered down the line to Lafond. The Frenchman also set up the second when Liley missed touch and Guscott, from 40 metres, floated through three tacklers for a superb try.

If Leicester found it difficult getting to grips with the strength and pace of Guscott and his French colleagues, they were taken back when Moon made a determined dash from left to right for the try that gave the Barbarians a 16-6 interval lead, having had first use of the wind. Leicester had also been deprived of a try partly by their own defects, partly by the honesty of Dusty Hare, their former full back who was running the line as a Baa-baas committee-man.

Tony Underwood, coming from deep, had split the defence, but then ran Liley into all sorts of trouble by not straightening his line. Lafond made a high tackle for which Ian Butlerwell initially awarded

a penalty try, but Hare pointed out that any foul had been committed in touch and the score was cancelled.

Leicester came back into the match directly the second half opened. Bales did tremendously well to collect a low pass and send Rory Underwood into the corner. Younger brother Tony followed when the defence opened before him, but Heslop, from an unpromising start, paved the way for White to send Pool-Jones to the line.

Liley kicked a third penalty goal to bring Leicester to within one point, but the understanding of two Bath colleagues, Guscott and Robinson, was crucial to the final try. Lafond tearing into the line and Moon squeezing into the corner.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: R Underwood, T Underwood, Connerdale; Liley (2). Penalty goals: Liley (3). Barbarians: Leicester: J Liley, T Underwood, J Bales, Y Emyr, R Underwood, J Marshall, A Kardooni, S Redfern, C Tresler, W Richardson, A Marriott, A Gasking, T Smith, N Back, M Grant.

Battle against the curse of St Andrew's

By CHRIS MOORE

IN THE 31 years since Dave Mackay moved south from Scotland to play a swashbuckling role in the Tottenham Hotspur team that accomplished the League and FA Cup double, Birmingham City have employed 12 managers. Among them have been Stan Cullis, Sir Alf Ramsey and Ron Saunders, who, like Mackay, the present incumbent at St Andrew's, all won the first division championship with previous clubs.

That is a unique record. Yet none of them enjoyed any success at Birmingham. Neither did the likes of Gil Merrick, Freddie Goodwin and John Bond.

Of all the big city clubs in Great Britain, Birmingham remain the only one never to taste success at a high level. Even more damning is the fact that in the last decade they scored fewer goals than any other club in the Football League, with the exception of the now-defunct Newport County.

While Liverpool scored the most goals (765), from the 1980-1 season to 1989-90, Birmingham managed 450 and Newport 443. St Andrew's, it seems, has become a footballing backwater, a manager's graveyard.

COMMENT

For the superstitious among their dwindling support, it is all down to a gypsy's curse. St Andrew's was built on what was once a Romany encampment. The day the gypsies were moved on, their leader put a curse on the site.

Saunders was so convinced the powers of evil were conspiring against him during his abortive spell there that he had St Andrew's exorcised. And because he was persuaded to believe in the power of red - the colour of successful sides such as Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester United and Nottingham Forest - he had the soles of the players' boots painted that colour.

In addition, a dozen crosses were erected around the ground, one each on the four floodlight pylons and one above the main reception desk. But all to no avail.

Today, despite having made their best start to a season by going through the first 12 League games undefeated, Birmingham find themselves languishing in fifteenth place in the

third division, having fallen to their lowest position in the League.

City have won only two of their last 16 League matches and, not surprisingly, the natives are getting restless again, with Mackay coming under increasing pressure from frustrated supporters. After the 2-0 home defeat by Brentford on Boxing Day, there were renewed calls from the crowd for his resignation.

For the time being, he has the continued backing of Samesh Kumar, the Birmingham chairman. But the old war-horse has always insisted he will not stay and wait for the axe to fall.

"When I came here the playing side was in a pathetic state," Mackay said. "It has improved over the last 18 months, but I am disappointed with our results this season."

"I want to do exceptionally well here. But I am not desperate to hang on to the job. I have been trying to do a job in two years and on a shoestring that others might say they need two or three million pounds and five years to do."

Kumar admits that the statistics may present a case for a change of management. But, as he says: "Brian

Clough is always having a go at directors because they are not willing to stick to their guns and I agree with him. In the time he has been here, Dave Mackay has not yet had a fair chance."

"Sacking is the easy option. It would appease the fans and it would save me some abuse on Saturday. But to change the manager in midstream now would only put the club back three years because that's how long it would take someone else to make his mark."

And as evidence of his support, Kumar was last night supervising the £30,000 signing of Eamonn Dolan, the West Ham United forward, which they were trying to rush through in time for him to play in tomorrow's home match with Bolton Wanderers, another club trying to revive memories of a famous past but at least enjoying life near the top of the table.

However, like any chairman, Kumar has to cover his tracks. "Obviously, if the present situation carries on for any length of time, I would have to take a deeper look at the situation," he said.

What has 1991 in store for Dave Mackay and Birmingham City?

Photograph, page 27

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SPORT

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Police chief  
Officers set  
Dollar falls  
INDEX

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